

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 Heather Shaw (USCIB)
Wednesday 21 September 2005

Thank you Chairman.

On behalf of CCBI, I would like to offer some comments on the topics that will be discussed this morning, notably the definition of Internet Governance and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

As we indicated in our general remarks yesterday, CCBI commends and supports the working definition on Internet governance developed by the WGIG. It is important that the working definition recognize the role that the private sector and civil society plays in internet governance. CCBI believes that the working definition reflects the broad range of issues surrounding the Internet and its uses, and in doing so has provided delegates with a sound basis and common understanding on which to continue discussions regarding these issues. In supporting the working definition, CCBI does not in any way support the notion that a more centralized process for making decisions is needed.

Furthermore, the WGIG working definition appropriately does not equate governance with government nor in any way imply that governments have or should have the lead role in shaping the development of the Internet. The genius of the Internet is that open processes enable anyone with a good idea to develop, propose and promote new standards and applications. The processes are decentralized and promote innovation, user choice, and flexibility while preserving the end-to-end nature of the Internet.

The governance of the Internet is a cooperative and collaborative effort amongst all stakeholders. While each stakeholder has a distinct and important role to play in Internet governance and responsibilities to ensure the continued growth, stability and robustness of the Internet, the **shared nature** of the roles and responsibilities among all stakeholders must also be highlighted.

The phenomenal success of the Internet is due in large part to its development in a conducive and unrestrained environment. The private sector plays an essential role in investing in the Internet and Internet related technologies. As a result of this investment, the private sector has built,

operates and maintains ICT infrastructure and applications worldwide. Governments can promote access to ICT services and applications through public-private partnerships in the short and medium term and through the development of an appropriate policy framework in the long-term. A pro-competitive and enabling environment permits industry to bring the benefits of the Information Society to the greatest number of people, improving their lives and increasing development. Creating this environment is the most important role for governments.

Continued ICT development is dependant on constant innovation. The private sector has driven ICT growth by researching and developing technologies, standards and processes. Indeed rapid innovations in this field have come to characterize the industry, and in doing so foster greater progress and innovation. The private sector also has a responsibility to foster human capacity building in and through ICTs. This is accomplished through education and training of employees and potential customers.

The list of topics that have been identified as relating to Internet governance is extensive. While governments on occasion use their sovereign rights to legislate, provide regulatory oversight, enter into treaties or mandate best practices, such action can lead to unintended consequences that inhibit, constrain and delays innovation and nascent capabilities and that burden development and reduce highly constructive opportunities for people, enterprises and institutions.

In fact, most of the internet governance topics do not require that the government play this role. The working definition seems to recognize this by implying that the shared principles, norms, rules, decision making procedures and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet should be innovative in themselves and be applied in ways that they have not been before. While traditional governing instruments certainly are relevant in some areas, governments can play a facilitating role in others by understanding the role of industry self-regulation, consulting industry-developed policy proposals, guidelines and tools, and promoting private sector-developed best practices to ensure the continued development and use of ICTs in a secure and stable manner.

CCBI looks forward to continuing to contribute to the development of WSIS text on these subjects and to providing inputs on the other Internet Governance subtopics.

I would like to turn to my colleague, Mr. Souheil Marine of Alcatel to provide some specific examples of how internet governance can impact the vital role of private sector innovation.

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/home/e_business/wsis.asp
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.