

# **Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)**

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

## **CCBI input at this stage of the WSIS negotiations and on Internet governance 27 October 2005**

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### **CCBI's fundamental principles**

- a) Ensure the stable, secure and consistent functioning of an end-to-end Internet;
- b) Ensure full and effective multi-stakeholder involvement (including governments, the private sector, the technical expert and academic community, civil society and relevant international organizations) in policy shaping and development at the national, regional and international levels, recognizing the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, each within their respective roles and responsibilities;
- c) Foster innovation and development;
- d) Promote the free flow of information and the continued evolution toward internationalization<sup>1</sup> of Internet content and software;
- e) Preserve private sector and technical community leadership in the technical management of the Internet;
- f) Ensure that policies and guidelines are developed through a bottom-up approach;
- g) Promote development of and expanded access to the Internet in order to facilitate the bridging of the digital divide;
- h) Remain sensitive to limited financial and human resources; and
- i) Create the necessary policy, legal and regulatory enabling environment to attract investment in ICTs and the Internet, stimulate infrastructure development, promote entrepreneurship, and foster innovation and creativity.

*Some of the above principles are detailed in the last section of this document.*

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<sup>1</sup> Internationalization includes development of content in more languages, and multilingualism of the domain name system. There is great value in expediting progress toward multilingualism in both content on the World Wide Web, and in the use of non ASCII character domain names. However, CCBI cautions that it is important to acknowledge that true progress must take into account the technical and other complexities of implementing internationalized domain names, including agreement on official language tables. Success in this area rests in substantial part on working with all organizations currently engaged in developing solutions including the browser /software development community.

## **Introduction**

CCBI, on behalf of business communities around the world, offers this input to highlight the fundamental principles for business regarding Internet governance for the ongoing discussions on that issue, and reaffirm the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in the development of the final documents for WSIS Tunis.

The key CCBI principles listed above, should be considered when developing the part of Chapter 3 of the WSIS Tunis documents dealing with the evolution of governance-related mechanisms - if any - that may be required to facilitate the expansion of an affordable, accessible Internet to improve the quality of life for people in all regions of the world.

We believe that the principles must be respected in the formulation of any text on the Internet governance issues in the WSIS Tunis documents.

CCBI has analyzed the proposals recently put forward at the WSIS Prep Com 3 in Geneva. We call upon all stakeholders to recognize and consider the valuable lessons that can be learned from the extraordinary thirty-five year development of the Internet, especially its astounding growth over the last decade. Since 1998, the number of Internet users has grown from 106 million to over 1 billion in 2005 amounting to a phenomenal expansion. The factors that created such powerful growth need to be preserved, enhanced and further internationalized. The dynamism of the Internet means that evolution within its existing decentralized and collaborative structure can be expected. Given this context, CCBI concluded that a radical overhaul of the present Internet governance architecture is not only unnecessary, but also threatens the stability and security of the Internet itself and the inclusiveness that the free flow of information provides.

CCBI is also concerned that some of the proposals at PrepCom 3 demonstrate a lack of appreciation for one of the great changes in national economies over the past twenty years. In many nations throughout the world, the telecommunication industry has been liberalized and privatized. The result has been the extraordinary growth of not only wireline telephone services, but also wireless mobile services and, for these purposes most importantly, access to the Internet. We believe that the lesson is clear: providing an enabling environment for business has lowered costs and increased penetration for all forms of telecommunications, information, and communications technologies, including in developing countries where such policies were pursued.

The value given to access to and use of the Internet is not equivalent to that given in “zero sum games”, whereby the gains of one are the losses of another. On the contrary, the more competition, creativity and innovation, the better it is for both current users and new ones. CCBI welcomes the actions by governments to create an enabling environment and to empower people to use the powerful tool that is the Internet. Regulation should be sensible, addressing real needs, involve consultation and participation by all stakeholders; regulation for regulation’s sake is not the answer. Regulation should take into account the local, national and regional levels, ensure coherence at all levels, and not result in an intergovernmental super-regulator that is too far removed from the real problems and issues to be effective.

Proposals advocating new intergovernmental mechanisms to oversee existing Internet technical functions and rules for the Domain Name System (DNS), if implemented, threaten to undermine the system’s existing efficiencies and unnecessarily complicate a system that has performed remarkably well as the Internet has scaled globally over the past seven years. Such new intergovernmental mechanisms threaten the security and stability of the Internet without providing any demonstrable offsetting benefit for development.

The Internet is dynamic, and existing institutions should naturally evolve to adapt to changing needs. In the future, as in the past, new challenges will arise. The WSIS should avoid prejudging what these future challenges might be, but rather stakeholders should work together to resolve them as they arise in a manner consistent with the decentralized and collaborative nature of the Internet.

CCBI members hope that governments and other stakeholders will carefully consider the above principles, and consider this input as a whole, in the final stages of developing the Tunis documents.

### **Explanatory Text on CCBI Principles**

*This section elaborates on some of the CCBI principles set out in the box on page 1.*

### ***Ensure the stable, secure and consistent functioning of an end-to-end Internet***

Much of today’s critical infrastructures and economies depend on the Internet’s stability. In addition, business has implemented numerous business models based on the Internet which rely fully on its continued security and stability.

Internet resources currently are deployed in accordance with purely technical and engineering requirements to meet user needs. The introduction of government controls may lead to resource allocation based on politics and result in the disruption of the free flow of information to all. The innumerable benefits of a single global information society via the Internet would be lost if fragmentation were allowed. Furthermore, the duplication or displacement of existing organizations will have additional negative effects on the stability and security of the Internet. Such duplication or displacement could drain limited resources unnecessarily and cause competition and conflict where cooperation is the goal. For this reason CCBI urges that the security, stability and consistent functioning of the Internet must be the highest priority for WSIS in order to promote the Information Society for all.

### ***Focus on development***

The primary goal of the WSIS – development – must remain the central consideration in all discussions and agreements. We see deliberations about the Internet as a critical part of achieving the WSIS goals of eradicating poverty, since its future governance can directly affect investment and facilitation of economic growth and social benefit for all. Improper Internet governance arrangements can impose new elements of risk, destabilize business arrangements, and have the unintended consequence of diverting finite human and financial resources from meeting development objectives. An enabling environment that attracts investment includes appropriate Internet governance arrangements, consistent with these principles.

An inclusive Information society is critical for development.

Participation in Internet governance processes requires knowledge and skills related to ICTs and their applications. Thus, to fully utilize the Internet and ICTs as tools for development, a coherent approach to building capacity, education and training, must be the cornerstone of the development objective in the WSIS discussions and documents to ensure full and effective participation by all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, in Internet related issues. To truly increase effective participation in these issues at the national, regional and international levels, capacity building, information sharing and training must be the focus.

### ***Decisions about the Internet today require multi-stakeholder participation***

Decisions about the Internet today are made in a variety of fora, institutions, organizations, and processes, which are flexible and focused, and whose histories show that they have adapted well to the fast-changing circumstances surrounding the Internet's development. Their historical

records reflect a highly successful series of judgments that have promoted – rather than retarded – Internet development. The continued participation by all stakeholders (including governments, the private sector, the technical expert and academic community, civil society and relevant international organizations) on all levels, each within their respective roles and responsibilities is vital.

Business believes that practical discussions amongst all stakeholders, that build cooperation, lead to the exchange of substantive experiences, and information, can be positive for the growth of the Internet and the Information Society. Business therefore can support relevant organizations (jointly) convening events for discussion of a specific issue. Such events should function as information exchanges that will enhance awareness of existing activities and opportunities for participation. These events are not substitutes for the organizations that are responsible for dealing with the issue, and should not be duplicative of other efforts, but rather should promote cooperation and collaboration. They should be needs-based, truly multi-stakeholder partnership efforts where each stakeholder is on an equal footing. CCBI believes that this approach can benefit all stakeholders.

We do not support establishing duplicative debates or creating institutions that will address issues and activities already addressed by existing organizations. We believe that the analysis and discussions over the course of the last year and a half demonstrate that many stakeholders and institutions are addressing the important Internet governance issues. Their work has been effective: solutions are being found and issues are being resolved. This should be supported as the best way to address Internet governance.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Sensitivity to limited financial and human resources***

Creating new fora can be expensive in both human and financial terms, particularly where these same resources could alternatively be applied to implementing the development goals of the WSIS. It is important, therefore, to focus ongoing discussions to make the most effective use of human and financial resources by optimizing existing mechanisms for Internet governance.

Analysis of Internet governance, considering all of the above principles leads to the clear conclusion that mechanisms will adapt to new challenges. Addressing specific challenges as they arise, in a multistakeholder fashion, should be the path forward.

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<sup>2</sup> See ICC matrix dated 13 September 2004 that identifies many of the organizations involved in Internet related issues.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/uploadedFiles/ICC/policy/e-business/pages/UpdatedMatrix.pdf>

### **Multi-stakeholder participation in WSIS preparatory process**

Beyond the discussion of the principles above, CCBI is compelled to express its concern about the lack of mechanisms for non-governmental participation in this inter-sessional period. Moreover, non-governmental stakeholders risk being excluded from possible drafting groups in Tunis during Prep Com 3 continued immediately before the Summit.

Throughout Prep Com 3, CCBI expressed concern about whether all governments attending the meeting were committed to a true multi-stakeholder deliberative process. Some governments strenuously objected to the presence of non-governmental stakeholders, including business, at drafting sessions, notwithstanding such stakeholders' obvious expertise and interests. The exclusion of business not only frustrated the development of the best document possible, but, more importantly, it also demonstrated a lack of commitment on the part of some governments to the Geneva Principles and to a multi-stakeholder process both in the deliberations and in some of the proposals brought forward for consideration.

Hence, while we ask governments to give close consideration to the principles articulated by CCBI, we urgently seek something more. We seek meaningful dialogue and participation in the development of the final WSIS Tunis documents.

## **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, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD; The Computer Society of Kenya, Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce; Global Information Infrastructure Commission; Latin-American Information Technology Association; United States Council on International Business; World Information Technology and Services Alliance; French Publishers Association; International Publishers Association, CABASE, E-COM LAC.

For further information regarding CCBI, please consult the WSIS website at: <http://www.itu.int/wsindex.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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