



**International Chamber of Commerce**

*The world business organization*

**Department of Policy and Business Practices**

## **Commission on E-Business, IT and Telecoms**

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### **Internet governance meeting**

Tuesday 24 February 2004, ICC International Headquarters, Paris

### **Summary report**

#### **Background:**

In light of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Geneva 2003, calling on the UN Secretary General to set up a working group on Internet governance, ICC's secretary general, Maria Livanos Cattai, announced the formation of a special work programme and advisory committee on Internet governance under the leadership of Mr Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair of ICC's Commission on E-business, IT and Telecoms (EBITT) to contribute to the UN Secretary General's work and discussions on this topic in other fora.

#### **Key points from discussion:**

ICC held a meeting on Internet governance for members only on 24 February 2004 in Paris. The purpose of the meeting was to convene members of the EBITT Commission from across sectors and around the world to discuss business priorities and concerns and to decide what inputs should be developed and contributed to the UN ICT Task Force Global Forum on Internet governance.

The discussion underscored ICC member concerns that policy issues resolved in the first phase of the WSIS and in other international fora such as privacy, intellectual property and infrastructure development should not be re-opened in the context of the ongoing discussion on Internet Governance in the Secretary General's working group. A great challenge is the different understandings of various stakeholders of the terms of debate, particularly the term 'Internet governance'.



Members agreed that ICC should continue to clarify and raise awareness amongst governments, business/private sector and other stakeholders on internet related issues and the relevant fora already handling them, and felt it was important to understand the number of expert bodies engaged in issues related to the Information Society and the Internet. ICC members strongly support those existing expert bodies as the appropriate forum to pursue issues within the sphere of responsibility and oppose creating redundant forums for debate.

However, in order to address appropriately the concerns of governments, ICC members would like more clarity as to those specific concerns, both of governments and other stakeholders.

ICC was invited to present at the ITU workshop on Internet governance as well as at the WSIS panel discussion during the ICANN meetings in Rome.

### **Decisions:**

It was decided that the following materials would be prepared for submission and distribution at this Forum, which you will find in the folders provided to each participant:

- A factual matrix on internet related technical and policy issues and the organizations and initiatives handling them.  
The matrix is meant to identify issues related to the Internet and the government, the international/intergovernmental and multistakeholder, and the private sector/business actions and initiatives that are currently addressing or discussing the issues. This matrix has been prepared to assist in the discussions related to a working definition of 'Internet governance', what issues are being addressed and where, and whether there are any issues that are not being addressed.
- The ICC Background Paper on Internet Governance which identifies three components of the Internet Governance debate within WSIS and provides information regarding them and some of the entities involved them
- The Global Action Plan for E-Commerce, prepared by ICC and other business organizations, which articulates business positions on all issues relating to the Internet. Business does not believe that all of the issues addressed in this document are related to Internet governance but hopes that this contribution helps to clarify the actions and initiatives that are needed by governments and business to address key policy issues.



### **Summary of business priorities and concerns:**

Business urges this Forum and the discussion regarding Internet governance to consider the following:

1. Internet governance should not become a vehicle for re-opening every policy issue related to the information society and the Internet.
2. The work on Internet governance should be focused on those policy issues that are not currently being addressed by another expert body.
3. Identifying the real areas of concern and what are the concrete actions that governments or other stakeholders would like to see addressed differently.
4. There are some issues which are better suited to government intervention as distinct from industry self regulation, and these ought to be the focus of discussion.
5. The UN Secretary General's working group should act as a steering committee rather than a group that would draft any recommendations or specifications. The substantive input of this working group to expert bodies will be most welcome and helpful

and

6. The UN Secretary General's working group should focus on the following:
  - Defining what is understood by the term 'Internet governance'.
  - Identify gaps in current work.
  - Suggest allocation of work to existing expert bodies or suggest appropriate enlargement of the terms of reference of such bodies.

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