

# **Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**

## **CCBI/ICC intervention regarding the Internet Governance Forum**

**17 February 2006**

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**IGF Consultations – 16-17 February 2006, Geneva**

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### **Introduction**

Thank you Chairman Desai, thank you Mr Kummer

I am executive director of WITSA, an alliance of more than 60 ICT associations from around the world. More than half of our members are from developing countries including Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka. WITSA maintains an active capacity building programme and I believe lessons learned from that programme can be useful in the context of an Internet Governance Forum.

Following the inputs yesterday, I am pleased to provide follow up comments on the IGF on behalf of CCBI and ICC members.

### **Multistakeholder participation on an equal footing**

Participation by all stakeholders in an integrated fashion is a key principle we support. Developing country stakeholders

Multistakeholder participation on an equal footing in all aspects of the IGF is the critical principle for business around the world. As many interventions at these consultations have stated, all stakeholders have valuable experience and information to share in this discussion forum, and they must all participate with equal status in all dimensions for there to be a true exchange and to meet the objectives of the IGF.

This principle should be supported in several ways including:

1. The IGF should be open and accessible to all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries. This means practical issues such as visas, accreditation, must be simplified to facilitate their participation, and sensitivity to human and financial resources should be paramount in all aspects of the IGF.
2. The first IGF event should fully integrate all of the recommendations regarding online tools at the meeting. This will increase participation from around the world from all interested parties.

3. The IGF supporting functions should include representatives from all the stakeholder groups to ensure that the views of all interested stakeholders are reflected.
4. A small secretariat/bureau focusing on the implementation of decisions made by a diverse, representative steering committee or similar guiding body is important. This small secretariat/bureau could administer a website that serves as a repository for contributions regarding the issues under discussion.

We should be inspired by the substantive and constructive way in which these very consultations are being managed and the willingness of all here to interact on an equal footing.

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 took place from 16 to 18 November 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 business community has decided to maintain a role for CCBI with regard to follow-up from the WSIS and its outcomes.

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/wsis/index.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, a 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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