

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

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

### **PrepCom 3 resumed**

#### **CCBI intervention for Subcommittee A, number 3 on Internet governance by Art Reilly, Cisco Systems 13 November 2005**

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Thank you Chair. On behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS, this intervention will elaborate on a few of the key principles that CCBI believes are fundamental to the negotiations at this stage.

#### ***One, 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, users have implemented numerous applications and various business models based on the Internet which rely fully on its continued security and stability.

Internet resources currently are deployed in accordance with technical and engineering requirements to meet user needs. The introduction of government controls or oversight may lead to inefficient and disruptive resource allocation and potentially fragmentation.

#### ***Two, Focus on development***

The primary goal of the WSIS – development – must remain the central consideration in all discussions and agreements. 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. 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.

### ***Three, 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. The continued meaningful participation by 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.

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>1</sup>

### ***Four, 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 on making 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.

We would also like to emphasize the following additional principles:

- Promote the free flow of information and the continued evolution toward internationalization<sup>2</sup> of Internet content and software;

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<sup>1</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>

<sup>2</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.

- Preserve private sector and technical community leadership in the technical management of the Internet;
- Ensure that policies and guidelines are developed through a bottom-up approach;
- Promote development of and expanded access to the Internet in order to facilitate the bridging of the digital divide; and
- 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.

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, 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.