

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

**ECOSOC meeting – 16 May 2006, Geneva**

## **ICC/CCBI intervention delivered by Ayesha Hassan (ICC)**

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Thank you Mr President, Secretary General Supatchai, Secretary General Utsumi, Mr Khan and distinguished participants.

On behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce and the members of the CCBI network, I would like to express our appreciation for the invitations to the business community to participate in this meeting today.

Business appreciates the recognition that effective utilization of ICTs and the Internet as tools for development is multi-dimensional and cannot be addressed solely by an inter-governmental process-----but rather that all stakeholders----governments, business, civil society, and the academic and technical communities all have to work together bringing their expertise and experience to bear on these issues at the national, regional and international levels.

We would like to reiterate the importance of moving the efforts by all stakeholders from the discussion phase to a truly practical approach to actually working on these issues.

Let us move from talk to action. Let's roll up our sleeves and do what needs to be done!

Reiterating this message will hopefully help to guide the work that is the focus of this meeting----which is to shape ECOSOC and its related groups in a way that will involve all stakeholders in meaningful and real ways.

For business, efficiency, and the effective use of limited human and financial resources, non-duplication, and the use of online tools are key components of this effort.

Expectations of the business community are geared in a shorter timeframe than perhaps the UN benchmarks such as the 2015 goal for the MDGs. Thus, we need to break down the process in to achievable steps. Business stands ready to contribute to the realization of the objectives of the WSIS and MDGs by developing concrete proposals jointly with the other stakeholders.

We look forward to contributing further on the issues in the informal background note, as the discussions evolve.

Thank you Mr President, and 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; CABASE; CompTIA; E-COM LAC; French Publishers Association; Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce; Global Information Infrastructure Commission; International Publishers Association; Latin-American Information Technology Association; The Computer Society of Kenya; United States Council on International Business; World Information Technology and Services Alliance.

For further information regarding CCBI, please consult the WSIS website at: <http://www.itu.int/wsisis/index.html>  
the CCBI website at [www.businessatwsisis.net](http://www.businessatwsisis.net)  
or ICC's website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ebitt/id2343/index.html>  
or contact [wsisis@iccwbo.org](mailto:wsisis@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. The fundamental mission of ICC is to promote trade and investment across frontiers and help business corporations meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization. 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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