

## **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 1 on Internet governance by Ayesha Hassan, ICC 13 November 2005**

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Thank you Chair. I am pleased to present this intervention on behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS.

As the final negotiations of the Tunis documents begin here in Tunis, business looks forward to contributing towards the success of these resumed negotiations by focusing on why WSIS was created - development, capacity building, education and training. This is the historic opportunity which should be embraced now.

Recalling this, business has and continues to lead the investment that has helped develop the Internet. The Internet has become one of the key elements in building economies. Its availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year is in the best interest of businesses of all sizes around the world. People businesses and others around the world have lauded the Internet and what it brings. Access by everyone, all of the time, is what has made it successful. Restricting it, for whatever reason, would not be in the best interest of anyone, especially developing countries.

There are different views on this issue, but again the final negotiations should not be about how to reign in this most phenomenal of tools, but rather how to encourage it to continue to grow and expand to allow all of human kind to enjoy its benefits. In the eyes of the private sector, the best way for the Internet to continue to fulfil the needs of all is for the existing arrangements for managing the technical coordination of the Internet to continue to evolve from within. Business believes that this continuing, inclusive evolution should be encouraged and all interested stakeholders should participate.

Under its current, distributed governance structure, the global number of users of the Internet has grown in the last seven years from 106 million to over one billion.

The extraordinary growth and continued success of the Internet is because it exists as an open network of networks that attracts innovation and investment.

**CCBI urges governments to focus on the** fundamental principles regarding Internet governance for the ongoing discussions, and reaffirm the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in the development of the final documents for WSIS Tunis. These principles are widely accepted and are the underpinnings of CCBI's interventions and contributions which are available on the WSIS website[ [check link](#)]

These principles 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.

An outcome at WSIS Tunis that is consistent with these principles will ensure that the Internet can continue to grow and evolve for all people around the world.

Thank you for your attention.

## **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
- e) toward internationalization<sup>1</sup> of Internet content and software;
- f) Preserve private sector and technical community leadership in the technical management of the Internet;
- g) Ensure that policies and guidelines are developed through a bottom-up approach;
- h) Promote development of and expanded access to the Internet in order to facilitate the bridging of the digital divide;
- i) Remain sensitive to limited financial and human resources; and
- j) 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.

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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.

## **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/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, 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.