

Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)

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

PrepCom-3 – 19-30 September 2005
Subcommittee A Internet governance

Intervention by Ayesha Hassan (ICC)
Friday 23 September 2005

On behalf of the CCBI, we wish to thank you, chairman for your effort to provide a basis for discussion, and for the efforts of Singapore and El Salvador.

Nevertheless the events of the Friday morning session have left us deeply concerned.

First, the paper provided by the Chair has failed to reflect the fundamental role of the private sector, civil society and the larger Internet Community in the functioning and governance of the Internet. We do not see how the final document can improve the ability of the Internet to be a vehicle for world-wide economic and social development without a better recognition of the roles of the key players in the process.

Second, we are disappointed in the role we have been relegated to play in the drafting process. Despite the over-arching principles of multistakeholder participation, transparency and democracy, only governments are to participate in the key function of drafting the document to be considered. This contradiction deprives the process of a fundamental source of information and perspective about the Internet, and it denies those who have developed, operate and use the Internet a full opportunity to help shape their own futures.

We take this opportunity to provide a few initial general reactions given our concern.

There have been many interventions by several government delegations, business and other stakeholders on the need for a people centric information society especially in the areas of education and capacity building. Developing countries, and particularly the African group have called for an emphasis on education and capacity building. This is as a critical component of development and participation. This paper does not reflect this fundamental component.

We believe it should have a strong section in this text, and given the importance we place on this subject, we did provide proposed text yesterday.

We also believe that the components of an enabling environment need to be clearly stated in the text.

Lastly, the critical importance of national multistakeholder coordination groups or frameworks as articulated in the WGIG report should be added to the text

We look forward to providing input to the drafting groups and this subcommittee as the discussions on the text continue and we will be preparing detailed written comments on the text.

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, the Business Council of the United Nations, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD; Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce; Global Information Infrastructure Commission; Money Matters Institute; United States Council on International Business; World Economic Forum; World Information Technology and Services Alliance; French Publishers Association; International Publishers Association; and Gobierno Digital.

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
or ICC's website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ebitt/id2343/index.html>
or contact 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.

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