

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 B, number 1 By Ayesha Hassan, ICC 13 November 2005

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

Before we discuss the operational documents, CCBI would like to offer the following thoughts. The Declaration of Principles that was adopted in Geneva included a commitment, in paragraph 20, to include all stakeholders in the development of the Information Society including their involvement in decision making processes. We are concerned about the exclusion of non-governmental participants at the negotiation groups that resulted in the latest documents to be discussed here. We appreciate the efforts of Ambassador Karklins and several governments to keep other stakeholders informed however this was not a substitute for inclusion.

The exclusion of business not only frustrates the development of the best document possible, but, more importantly, it also demonstrates a lack of commitment on the part of some governments to the Declaration of Principles and to a multi-stakeholder process.

That being said, we commend the efforts to foster agreement on the Tunis Agenda for Action by streamlining the document structure and removing redundancies. Reaffirming the commitments made in Geneva during the first phase and identifying concrete actions necessary to achieve these goals are the most important objectives of the Tunis phase and they should be stated clearly and simply.

Throughout the PrepCom process we have urged a key focus on creating a people-centric Information Society and on bringing people the benefits of ICTs through development, capacity building, education and training.

Achieving these most important objectives and the other goals outlined in the Tunis Agenda for Action requires a clear commitment to create the necessary enabling environment to attract investment, promote innovation, stimulate infrastructure development, and foster entrepreneurship.

International level follow-up and implementation must not be left to be led, coordinated, moderated, or even facilitated by one single UN agency, and must involve all stakeholders on an equal footing. Implementation of the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action should be achieved by mainstreaming ICT and development and by making these issues integral to the agendas of UN bodies.

Implementation and follow-up should come from the bottom-up and be built around a strong commitment to national level multistakeholder coordination of follow-up and implementation of WSIS commitments.

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
or ICC's website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/eibitt/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.