

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 2 on Internet governance by Chris Sorek, SAP A.G, 13 November 2005

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

CCBI recognizes the efforts that have gone into the development of the proposals recently put forward at the WSIS Prep Com 3 in Geneva. Upon analysis of the proposals we offer the following perspective.

CCBI is concerned that the consequences of some of the proposals at PrepCom 3 may demonstrate a lack of appreciation for one of the great changes in national economies over the past twenty years. In many nations throughout the world, the telecommunication industry has been liberalized and privatized. The result has been the extraordinary growth of not only wireline telephone services, but also wireless mobile services and, for these purposes most importantly, access to the Internet.

We believe that the lesson is clear: providing an enabling environment for business has lowered costs and increased penetration for all forms of telecommunications, information, and communications technologies, including in developing countries where such policies were pursued. These policies have resulted in economic growth as well as improved education, healthcare and government services. This is contributing towards improved quality of life for people around the world and their economic opportunities.

CCBI concluded that a radical overhaul of the present Internet governance architecture is not only unnecessary, but also threatens the stability and security of the Internet itself and the inclusiveness that the free flow of information provides.

Proposals advocating new intergovernmental mechanisms to oversee existing Internet technical functions and rules for the Domain Name System (DNS), if implemented, threaten to undermine the system's existing efficiencies and unnecessarily complicate a system that has performed remarkably well as the Internet has scaled globally over the past seven years. Such new intergovernmental mechanisms threaten the security and stability of the Internet without providing any demonstrable offsetting benefit for development.

The Internet is dynamic, and existing institutions should naturally evolve to adapt to changing needs. In the future, as in the past, new challenges will arise. The WSIS should avoid prejudging what these future challenges might be, but rather stakeholders should work together to resolve them as they arise in a manner consistent with the decentralized and collaborative nature of the Internet.

CCBI welcomes the actions by governments to create an enabling environment and to empower people to use the powerful tool that is the Internet. Public policy should be sensible, addressing real needs, involve consultation and participation by all stakeholders. Public policy should take into account the local, national and regional levels, ensure coherence at all levels, and not result in an intergovernmental super-regulator that is too far removed from the real problems and issues to be effective.

Rather than create new intergovernmental oversight mechanisms, business asks that governments and other stakeholders focus on evolution of the existing mechanisms, the creation of an enabling environment and continuing multistakeholder dialogue

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/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.