

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

**Capacity building for meaningful participation in the information
society and on issues related to Internet governance**

Intervention by Heather Shaw (USCIB)

Thursday 22 September 2005

Thank you Chairman.

CCBI believes that meaningful participation is essential to effective Internet governance. Capacity building can contribute to the realization of this objective. The issue of meaningful participation in issues related to the Internet should be considered in light of the appropriate participation given the mandates and structures of organizations. It is critical to address this issue in terms of cooperation and exchange of information between the various bodies addressing issues related to the Internet. In addition, it is important to recognize that promoting cooperation between organizations can best be achieved via neutral mechanisms in which organizations can participate in a fair and equal environment.

Creating new fora can be expensive, particularly where the same resources could alternatively be applied to implementing the developmental outcomes of the WSIS. It is important, therefore, to make the most effective use of human and financial resources by optimizing existing mechanisms for Internet governance before creating new mechanisms.

CCBI commends the WGIG's emphasis on human capacity-building: if all stakeholders have a greater understanding of both Internet policy and technologies they will be better able to address key Internet issues. All stakeholders have a critical role to play in capacity building. Therefore, we recommend that the WSIS process focus more attention on this critically important area, which will result in more meaningful participation in existing internet governance mechanisms.

As Tunis is to be the "action phase," CCBI would welcome recommendations on how best to build capacity in the operational document. For example, as parties from all stakeholder communities have pointed out, translation of existing materials and technical resource documents into multiple languages is often a critical step to making information accessible. Additionally, while providing funds for representatives from less developed countries to participate in remote meetings is one approach to increase participation, other initiatives to bring information and resources to developing countries, including those that use technology available in the Information Society,

leads to the development of sustainable activities within the country itself and deserve continued support.

Education is the cornerstone of success in the use of ICTs and in promoting the information society for all. All people must have access to basic education as a first step, followed by ICT related skills development. In this regard, partnerships of stakeholders should ensure that ICT training is widely available which harness the power and potential of ICT in the workplace. To maximize this power, educators should use information about the current and expected marketplace to establish what skills training is required when setting curricula. One such program that identifies skill gaps is the Workforce Survey conducted by World Information Technology and Services Alliance in partnership with ICT associations and educational entities in developing countries.

There is tremendous value in the education system recognizing the need for developing the basic skills and attitudes that make up a positive, problem-solving, entrepreneurial mindset such as lateral thinking, questioning, independence and self-reliance. This education should continue through vocational training, business incubation and the start-up phase for young entrepreneurs.

CCBI thus proposes that chapter 3 should include language on capacity building at the national and international levels, including implementation of educational programs, and wishes to submit the following text for consideration by delegates:

“Governments, businesses, civil Society working together, including where appropriate, through partnerships for education and Training in developing countries, can improve and expand the availability of basic education, and develop the human capacity to participate effectively on Internet governance-related issues nationally, regionally, and globally by such steps as:

- Committing to ICT education and training as a top priority to ensure that people have opportunities to acquire the necessary ICT skills,
- Establishing national strategies for ICT education and workforce development in consultation with private and academic sectors that will be one part of overall national education and ICT Strategies,
- Establishing goals and dedicating the financial, people and physical resources to achieve the goals that include metrics that are time-related and measurable, and
- Integrating ICT curricula into formal education systems - within the formal secondary, vocational and tertiary education systems as well as through labor/workshop training”

Thank you for considering this proposal.

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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