

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 2 By Heather Shaw, US Council for International Business 13 November 2005

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

Following on the general concepts that CCBI stated in its first intervention, we note that the governments that participated in the negotiations in October reached agreement on much of the text. We will therefore focus our comments on those paragraphs that will be discussed during PrepCom 3, continued.

Goals and objectives

On paragraph 10 which has been conditionally agreed which focuses on improving affordable access through technology transfer on preferential terms:

CCBI urges the deletion of 'preferential terms' and insertion of 'mutually agreed terms'

Partnerships

Paragraph 18 supports CCBI's main priorities of encouraging multistakeholder participation in the building of a people-centred, inclusive and development orientated information society and should be agreed as is.

There are many ongoing public private partnerships at the national, regional and international levels. While the ITU Connect the World initiative is one such example and CCBI welcomes this initiative, it should not be singled out in the Tunis documents in paragraph 19 as the only example welcomed.

Implementation

As a general remark, national, regional and international implementation should work together from the bottom-up. While we recognize the significant efforts that resulted in the merging of former chapters 1 and 4, we suggest that further restructuring may be necessary, as national level implementation is addressed in paragraphs 5, 20 and 21, regional implementation in paragraphs 6 and 22, and international implementation in paragraphs 7, 7A and 23. We believe that further structural streamlining

will result in greater clarity to the plan for implementation and follow up and how these elements work together.

On paragraph 23, CCBI agrees that each UN agency should integrate activities related to the implementation of WSIS goals into its work program and that decisions regarding these activities should be made within those organizations acting in accordance with its mandate. We therefore do not believe that a further framework or mechanism, discussed in paragraphs 20 and 21, is necessary.

On paragraphs 24, 27, 29 and 30, all of which address coordination of implementation activities, CCBI believes that implementation should be conducted by all stakeholders. Implementation of action lines requires a wide range of core competencies. No single specialized agency possesses all the necessary expertise to coordinate all implementation activities therefore no specialized agency, institution or organization should be assigned a lead managerial or chair role. While CCBI supports the desire to avoid duplication, thus being sensitive to limited financial and human resources, CCBI does not believe there is a need for an overarching coordination mechanism. The information exchange and sharing of best practices that is called for in paragraph 30 should rather occur in a collegial and cooperative manner amongst all stakeholders.

New paragraph 30A sets UNGA resolution 57/270B and the decisions of the Summit as the guidance for cooperation. Returning to our earlier remarks regarding equal participation of all stakeholders in implementing the Action Plan, we do not agree that the UN processes should apply outside the UN system, however UNGA resolution 57/270B which supports multistakeholder participation, is appropriate to guide follow up and implementation within the UN system.

Raising Awareness/World Information Society Day

Should it be decided to create a World Information Society Day, it should be given an independent day, not in conjunction with other UN celebrations and should put the focus on celebrating people and development and not specific technologies.

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.