

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 3 By Mondher Ben Ayed, UTICA 13 November 2005

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

We note that most of Chapter 2 on Financial Mechanisms has now been agreed. Our intervention will therefore focus on the two outstanding paragraphs, 20 and 27.

In paragraph 20 and 20A, which deal with promotion of technology transfers, _we only support a transfer of technology under mutually agreed terms and not on preferential terms dictated by third parties.

CCBI recommends the deletion of new paragraph 27B and alt new 27B for several reasons.

First, a primary aim of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action and WSIS Tunis commitments is the creation of enabling environments to attract investment in ICTs and the Internet. The proposed texts encourage actions that would not serve to attract investment. To the contrary, it could discourage investment needed to provide job opportunities, infrastructure development and economic growth.

Second, the very transnational corporations that are being identified in these texts are those who are in fact bringing investment to many countries, and the action proposed in this text would deter such investment.

Third, these paragraphs refer to two different issues: 1) corporate social responsibility which are and should be voluntary activities by corporations and 2) corporate governance which deal with financial and accounting issues that are and should be governed by national laws and customs. Neither of these issues are appropriate or can be effectively addressed here.

Many companies already have corporate social responsibility programmes and initiatives to address these issues that they have undertaken voluntarily. Governmental dialogue attempting to mandate what companies

should do could actually be counterproductive to promoting voluntary, corporate responsibility programmes and initiatives.

And finally, we bring to your attention that these new texts were only raised at the intersessional negotiation group meetings which did not include non-governmental stakeholders.

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/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.