

Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

CCBI/ICC intervention regarding the Internet Governance Forum

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Introduction

Thank you Chairman Desai, thank you Markus Kummer

I am Peter Hellmonds, I work for Siemens Communications, but here I speak on behalf of CCBI and ICC members to provide a few concluding remarks from the business community.

First of all, we would like to thank you for so efficiently conducting these consultations and for the spirit of free information exchange. We can see the workings of the future of the Internet Governance Forum right here in action, already embodying some of the key elements that we from the business community and many others have stressed.

Allow me, briefly, Mr. Chairman, to elaborate on the idea of "spirit", by using an analogy to doing business, where there are two modes of dealing with business counterparts. First, there is the bazaar style of bargaining, where you drive each other to rock bottom prices and conditions. This, however, is the style of one-off deals, because it often leaves one party sour. The other style is what the first could and should turn into, which is the familiar style. Here, as it is a continuing relationship between business partners, the emphasis is on keeping good relations between the partners. I am pleased to see that we have successfully begun with these consultations to turn from the bazaar-style bargaining model, that we had in the WSIS PrepCom process, to the familiar style of forging good working relations amongst each other. We can see that happening in the interventions we have heard, but even more so in the bilateral and multilateral discussions that are taking place during lunch and coffee breaks here in the Palais des Nations.

I would like to call upon all of us to maintain this positive spirit. We are in this together, because the Internet is here for all of us. We all should find that it works to our advantage to maintain the global nature of the Internet and make sure that all of the stakeholders, even those who are not here, and who have not spoken out, can benefit from its positive effects.

The Internet Governance Forum must provide the opportunity for all affected groups and communities to bring their requests and requirements to the

table. In this regard, we welcome the notion that there could be self-forming information society initiatives or committees on the national and regional level, organized perhaps along the same lines of multistakeholder participation as the IGF, to inform the national representatives of governments, businesses, civil society and other interested stakeholder groups such as the technical and the academic community, of the local interests.

Let me now, if I may, Mr. Chairman, come back to the substantial questions that you sent us off with today and conclude this intervention with a few final remarks on what we see here as the convergence or agreement around the IGF:

- a) it should be composed of all stakeholder groups, on an equal footing, with adequate regional diversity;
- b) an integrated, not separate, programme committee, composed of a relatively small number of qualified individuals;
- c) a format that facilitates true information exchange and provides a learning experience in support of human capacity building;
- d) a development perspective, keeping the goals of the WSIS in mind.

Needless to say that the business community looks forward to contributing to the continued definition and evolution of the IGF, and thus, we look forward to the next round of consultations. Finally, I would like to applaud Chairman Desai and Markus Kummer for the considerable progress that we have achieved in these two days of consultations.

Thank you.

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 took place from 16 to 18 November 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 business community has decided to maintain a role for CCBI with regard to follow-up from the WSIS and its outcomes.

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/wsisis/index.html>
the CCBI website at www.businessatwsisis.net
or ICC's website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ebitt/id2343/index.html>
or contact wsisis@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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