

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

## **CCBI/ICC intervention regarding the Internet Governance Forum 16 February 2006**

**By Waudo Siganga, Computer Society of Kenya, for CCBI  
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Thank you Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the members of CCBI, I would like to offer some of our ideas in response to the points and questions that you raised before the break.

First, for business, multistakeholder on an equal footing, is a fundamental principle, that should guide all aspects of the IGF – participation, representation, leadership, access, operations – all dimensions.

Second, the format for the IGF event should be shaped to meet the clear objective of facilitating the exchange of information, experiences, best practices – and I would add the important component of making human contacts.

A few ideas include – a format for instance, with an opening session in plenary to set the stage on the event topic. Interactive and expert panels on focused issues, to attract the key experts that have been discussed. We should take care to ensure that discussion focuses on the various aspects of the topic being considered. A final wrap up plenary would be useful.

On the representatives to be selected for the bureau, we would like to stress the importance that these representatives be selected in close consultation with all stakeholder groups, and that diversity of expertise and geographies are key considerations.

On the question regarding the outcomes of the IGF event – the tangible outcomes should be neutral summaries of the discussions and then we should consider that a real outcome is the actual exchange of information - i.e. the process of open, interactive, multistakeholder exchange and discussion is the outcome in many ways.

On the question of how to actualize the real participation of all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries---

Wherever possible, email, webcasts, wikis, and online collaboration tools should be used in order to maximize the interactions online and minimize the need for expensive face to face meetings. The IGF event should be webcast or broadcast so that stakeholders who cannot attend in-person will have another means of participating or at least be able to follow the event without incurring the cost of travel.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

## **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/wsis/index.html>  
the CCBI website at [www.businessatwsis.net](http://www.businessatwsis.net)  
or ICC's website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ebitt/id2343/index.html>  
or contact [wsis@iccwbo.org](mailto:wsis@iccwbo.org)

## **ABOUT ICC**

ICC is the world business organization, a 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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