

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 B Intervention re DT-6 rev 2

Intervention by Ayesha Hassan (ICC)
Wednesday 21 September 2005

Thank you Madame Chairperson.

The text of DT- 6 rev 2 that has been discussed thus far, and the comments by government delegations, have a focus on the enabling environment and attracting investment in ICT infrastructures.

Thus, CCBI urges that the following key elements of an enabling environment for ICT infrastructure and investment be reflected clearly in the operational part of the WSIS Tunis texts.

The following issues should all be recognized in the text as essential components of an enabling environment:

- The establishment of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that are pro-competitive, spur investment, and foster entrepreneurship, while highlighting the critical need for continued progress creates an environment for investment and innovation;
- the rule of law, Intellectual property protection;
- a liberalized telecommunications framework;
- countries should become WTO members if they are not already, and make broad commitments to build many sectors, including Telecommunications and with Computer and Related Sectors, financial services, education, and healthcare, to name a few which are all important to the information society;
- the provision of the education and training necessary to ensure sustainable benefit from ICTs;
- the removal of administrative obstacles to entrepreneurship, the removal of barriers; and
- the creation of legal and economic incentives to promote innovation and trade commitments.

These are fundamental building blocks to promote an information society for all. The absence of these building blocks, by for example a lack of competitiveness in developing countries, can negatively impact the enormous economic potential of SMEs that could foster development.

CCBI supports the new 6 bis and 6b proposed by the ILO, OECD and UNCTAD because they are consistent with the building blocks outlined earlier, and these texts recommend the building of programmes based on practical and replicable experiences of ICT policies and actions.

CCBI supports education and training as fundamental components to achieving the objectives of integrating ICTs to promote economic growth and social development and an information society for all, and the proposed text regarding 6 c from the ILO, OECD and UNCTAD clearly state this principle.

CCBI believes that the necessary enabling environment to promote entrepreneurship and human capacity building are critical. Thus, CCBI also supports new 6k1, 6k2 and 6k3 submitted by the ILO and OECD. These texts also underscore the key components that will assist business in developing countries, and particularly SMEs.

We would like to elaborate on the proposal from CCBI for 6 k 3, NEW v. The proposal underscores the need for human capacity building that can help SMEs develop the skills necessary to address local needs.

We would appreciate the integration of these points in the next revision of the text.

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, 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/wsisis/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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