

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

CCBI/ICC second intervention regarding the Internet Governance Forum

17 February 2006

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IGF Consultations – 16-17 February 2006, Geneva

Introduction

Thank you Chairman Desai, thank you Mr Kummer

I am pleased to provide a few additional follow up comments on the IGF on behalf of CCBI and ICC members on the flexibility needed and the format of the IGF.

Flexibility based on consensus for going forward

Many interventions have highlighted the reasons and principles for why the IGF needs to be flexible, for example---each IGF event may focus on a different topic or closely related topics, which will need different expertise, perhaps different ways of exchanging ideas and information, and this needs to be considered in formulating the support for the IGF and how the event will be shaped.

Format

Business envisions the IGF as a vehicle to bring the substantive work and experience on the Internet related issue selected, from existing organizations and all stakeholders to this global space. The unique quality of the IGF is the participation of all stakeholders participating on an equal footing, and thus, the programme for the event should be shaped to maximize this opportunity.

Key visionaries and experts from all stakeholder groups will be attracted to the IGF because it offers an opportunity for them to reach a large, diverse, inclusive audience, and because they will welcome the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way.

The true exchange of information and experience is best accomplished by focused, well-prepared, interactive discussions. This could be in the form of expert panels discussing the topic from a variety of perspectives, thus sharing the lessons learned, the challenges, and successes. It is possible that solicitation of white papers, or written materials may develop as an input to the IGF. Certainly it will be important to publish the proceedings of each IGF. Unfocused discussions will not help us reach the goal of sharing and exchanging.

We encourage the Secretary General to include in his request for reports, information on how each organization is addressing the challenge of the WSIS – becoming more transparent, etc. and how the concept of multi stakeholder is being addressed.

On a practical note, we note there is a May meeting on the revised timeline on the IGF website. If there are to be planning meetings, we urge for them to be open to all stakeholders, that a date be set promptly to allow for travel planning, and that where practical they be aligned with other open meetings being planned on other activities identified in the Tunis Agenda.

I would like to conclude by offering the following ideas from the global business community, companies and members of national, regional, global and sectoral members in the CCBI and ICC networks:

- This is a unique opportunity to maximize the substantive experiences---- both the challenges and obstacles---of governments, business, civil society, the technical and academic communities and other stakeholders, to promote the Information Society for all
- The most effective way to accomplish that in the IGF is for all of us and all the stakeholders around the world who are interested in these issues to be able to participate together with equal abilities to speak, share, and shape the IGF going forward.
- The programme should facilitate this objective and not be a hindrance to this opportunity being fully realized.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute.

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, 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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