

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

Second round of consultations on the convening of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 19 May 2006, Geneva

ICC/CCBI intervention 2 delivered by Zahid Jamil (Jamil and Jamil) Pakistan on behalf of ICC/CCBI

Business endorses the topic of human capacity building.

Human capacity building, training and education are the fundamental basis for progress on all other issues in the IGF and the Information Society. Human capacity building in developing countries is essential to affect meaningful participation in Internet governance processes at all levels. It also enables the meaningful exchange of information and experiences among all stakeholders to build human capacities through the IGF that can make a substantive contribution towards increasing and improving the involvement of all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, in Internet governance. Furthermore, since the human capacity building must be implemented at the national, regional and international levels by the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, the multistakeholder nature of the IGF will support this objective.

Training and education regarding the Internet

We believe that meaningful participation in discussions on access and policies is essential for effective Internet governance.

If we apply the criteria outlined earlier to the issue of bridging the digital divide, or increasing digital opportunities, particularly from the perspective of increasing and improving access and shaping policies to support this, we believe that focusing on human capacity building permits us collectively to address the other important Internet governance issues of today and starts preparing us now to address the issues of the future.

If all stakeholders, from around the world, were to have a greater understanding of both Internet policies and Internet technologies, they would be better able to address such key Internet issues in the various organizations addressing them. Education and training, i.e. human capacity building, are the cornerstones of success, not only in the use of ICTs but also for participating in meaningful and productive deliberations and decision-making bodies, thus promoting the beneficial goals of an Information Society for all---which lies at the heart of the Geneva and Tunis commitments.

From a business perspective, for economic and social development to flourish, all people must have access to basic education as a first step. This must be followed by ICT related skills development. Business recognizes the size of that task. In this regard, human capacity building in the area of ICT related skills can be advanced through partnerships among stakeholders that would ensure that ICT training is widely available which would help to apply the power and potential of ICTs in schools, communities and in the workplace. Indeed, such partnerships exist today. The IGF environment could naturally provide a place for stakeholders to share and network, and potentially pursue new partnerships.

For these reasons, business supports a focus on education and skills training for ICTs as essential elements to promote an Information Society for all, as the ideal first topic upon which to focus IGF attention.

Thank you Mr Chairman, Mr Kummer

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; CABASE; CompTIA; E-COM LAC; French Publishers Association; Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce; Global Information Infrastructure Commission; International Publishers Association; Latin-American Information Technology Association; The Computer Society of Kenya; United States Council on International Business; World Information Technology and Services Alliance.

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

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, a representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world. The fundamental mission of ICC is to promote trade and investment across frontiers and help business corporations meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization. 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.