



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Department of Policy and Business Practices

Commission on E-Business, IT and Telecoms

Ayesha Hassan's talking points for presentation at:

**Consultations on the establishment of the
Working Group on Internet Governance
(20 -21 September) 2004, Geneva**

Session 1: Nature and scope of Internet governance; setting priorities

20 September Panel 2: Stakeholder Perspectives 10.00-13.00

- Thank you Mr Chairman and Mr Kummer and the organizers for inviting ICC to present the business perspective.
- We would like to reiterate our appreciation for the commitment to making this working group a multi-stakeholder body.
- As many of you know, ICC chairs the Coordinating Committee of business Interlocutors for WSIS. Between the ICC network of members around the world and CCBI's network, the business group is composed of representatives from all sectors, sizes and regions.

I would like to mention a few concrete contributions to this dialogue which include:

- ICC roadmap and the
- matrix of issues related to the Internet and organizations dealing with them developed earlier this year and the updated version of the matrix is available, or will be, on the tables in the room today as well as on the working group's website, and ICC's website.

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In addition, following the Summit in Geneva,

- ICC's Commission on E-business, IT and Telecoms set up an advisory committee on Internet governance to guide business input – representatives from all regions and sectors.

CCBI and ICC, like all Information Society stakeholders recognize that as stated in the WSIS Declaration of Principles:

Quote:

- “education, knowledge, information and communication are at the core of human progress, endeavour and well-being. Further, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have an immense impact on virtually all aspects of our lives. The rapid progress of these technologies opens completely new opportunities to attain higher levels of development.”, and
- “the private sector has had and should continue to have an important role in the development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields”

End quote.

Therefore, ICC and CCBI, like other stakeholders, have been active participants in the discussions within the UN on Internet Governance, including participation at the ITU Workshop and the UNICT Task Force Global Forum.

Throughout these discussions ICC has stressed the important role that existing expert bodies play in addressing issues related to the Internet, whether they be standards, technical coordination or policy-making bodies.

Business worldwide strongly believes that these expert bodies should continue to be the focal points for further substantive discussions at the international level on issues within their sphere of expertise so as to avoid duplication, and to continue to build upon the successes of the Internet, and these bodies should evolve to address existing and new challenges, and extend the benefits to all people around the world.

We recognize the importance of increasing awareness of those expert bodies and expanding opportunities for participation in them to promote global and multi-stakeholder representation. ICC will work actively towards these objectives. This is particularly important with respect to increased substantive participation of people and entities from developing countries in these processes.

The UN Secretary General's working group can play a critical role in developing solutions in this regard.

I would like to outline the main ICC recommendations for the focus of process oriented actions needed by the working group :



First, the Working Group members should be able to discuss issues that they believe may relate to Internet Governance to develop a better understanding of the concepts and potential issues

Second, we feel that insisting that the Working Group agree to a rigid definition before discussion of some issues could potentially a priori limit the discussion of key topics or unnecessarily dictate an agenda of topics for the WG that is broader than can be effectively addressed to help WSIS 2005 progress this matter.

Third, the Working Group's efforts to complete a matrix of issues that may relate to Internet Governance and the organizations addressing them in order to put the entire discussion into a common context will be a productive exercise. As we have offered before, we would be pleased to provide the updated Matrix that ICC has developed as a starting point for this exercise.

Fourth, the group could evaluate whether there are policy issues that may not be adequately addressed by an existing expert body and propose a process for effectively progressing those aspects that are not being adequately addressed. ICC's initial evaluation indicates that efforts to broaden opportunities for participation is a primary issue.

Fifth, they could identify ways for sustainable and meaningful participation from all stakeholders, particularly representatives from the developing world - both governments and non-government stakeholders - in existing expert bodies as they pursue work consistent with their mission and competencies.

This would include:

- a. awareness-raising initiatives;
- b. capacity building efforts; and
- c. innovative mechanisms for participation.

Sixth, the group could promote greater coordination among the existing expert bodies to promote cooperation and collaboration and avoid duplication.

Beyond these six elements, we believe that the UN, through the appropriate bodies, could play an important role in raising awareness among governments and other stakeholders on establishing an appropriate enabling environment including such issues as authentication, trade liberalization, security of information systems and networks, and cross-border fraud, utilizing the existing materials developed and provided by expert bodies addressing those issues.

The business community urges this working group to focus on the following priorities as it considers issues identified using the process recommended above:



1. Forward-looking challenges – identify a process to address issues of today and tomorrow, and not re-open the policy debates of yesterday;
2. Problem areas where all agree that concrete actions at the international level are necessary;
3. Approaches which allow market players and self-regulation to respond dynamically and effectively to address market needs with government creating enabling environments with intervention only to address market failures;
4. The Secretary General’s working group should convene as a steering committee rather than a prescriptive body;
5. The Working Group should focus on identifying gaps in current work and suggesting which bodies should be responsible for addressing those gaps using existing organizations consistent with their current mandates.

And

6. The Working Group can also encourage existing organizations to intensify efforts on those identified issues for which their existing and planned work may be considered inadequate.

ICC and CCBI are continuing efforts to contribute to the ongoing international dialogue on these issues in several ways.

We have been spending a lot of time analysing where there may be potential gaps in the handling of issues. We believe that it is a compliment to all of the stakeholders and their desire to promote the Information Society that some international organizations appear to be addressing the issues that have been identified so far.

Expanding capacity building and increasing broad based participation including the development and utilization of innovative mechanisms is critical to strengthening the existing international cooperation and collaborating for the future.

ICC will provide input on both as discussions proceed. In addition, ICC looks forward to collaborating to provide a platform for discussion amongst stakeholders on Internet governance issues.

We are pleased to continue to work with the UN and others to promote further progress toward a global information society for all.

Thank you for your attention.

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