



Department of Policy and Business Practices

Richard D. McCormick's remarks re ICC's meeting on Internet governance delivered at U.N. ICT Task Force Global Forum on Internet Governance on 25 March 2004, New York

Thank you, Mr Desai.

At the beginning of this month, 739 million, 721 thousand, 856 people...
...around the world...
...were using the Internet.

Twice as many as in the year 2000.

Usage doubled on every continent...
...and continues to grow exponentially, today.

The Internet has brought all of those people closer to their families and friends...
...to information and products and services they want...
...and, in many cases, closer to the future they want...
...by linking them to education and employment opportunities.

Most of those peoples' only complaint about the Internet...
...is that they want more of it.

More access.
More speed.
More users.
More services.

They are looking to government to provide the policies, and they are looking to
business to provide the investment, to deliver those things.

And we will.

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We in the business community look forward to working with governments to ensure that:

- the Internet and other information technologies reach their full potential; and
- that they promote economic and social growth throughout the developing as well the developed world.

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Your current deliberations are an important part of that process.

And we appreciate your invitation to contribute the results of the deliberations we have had, among business people.

Members of the International Chamber of Commerce have devoted thousands of hours to studying the issues your task force is addressing.

So when the World Summit on the Information Society called on the Secretary General to set up a working group on Internet governance...

... we called a group together to contribute our findings to this process.

ICC created a special advisory committee, led by Mr Talal Abu-Ghazaleh...

... who chairs our commission on information technologies and who will chair session III of this forum today at 12.00 noon.

His group met in Paris on 24 February 2004.

Many of our findings are in the folders available at the entry to the room.

Three items:

- First, a matrix of policy issues, and who's addressing them;
- Second, a background piece on the different components of the debate throughout WSIS on Internet governance; and
- Third, version 3 of the Global Action Plan for E-Commerce, prepared by a coalition of business groups around the world.

We have also submitted a complete report that will be available on the UN ICT Task Force website.

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Ms Ayesha Hassan, ICC and Mr David Fares, USCIB are here throughout the meeting to assist you with any questions.

We agreed on the key messages from the business community, which I am pleased to share with you now:

The business community urges that, as you proceed the next day and a half:

1. you focus on governance issues today, and not re-open the policy debates of yesterday;
2. you focus on issues not already being addressed by other expert bodies;
3. you concentrate on problem areas where all agree that concrete actions are necessary;
4. you focus on those areas where government intervention is necessary and at the same time give self-regulation a chance to work;
5. you see the Secretary General's working group as a steering committee rather than a prescriptive body; and
6. suggest it focus on:
 - identifying gaps in current work; and
 - suggesting which stakeholders and which bodies should be responsible for addressing those gaps using existing organizations consistent with their current mandates.

We, in the business community remain eager to contribute to this process, and ICC stands ready to gather any information and input you request.

Thank you!

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