

**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 1
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on behalf of ICC/CCBI**

Thank you Mr Chairman, Mr Kummer,

The first meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Athens will set the stage for future IGF events. The global business community, represented here by ICC/CCBI, has the following preliminary comments on a few critical issues to make this first IGF a success and to ensure that it can have positive impact and result in tangible benefits from the discussions.

The Heads of State at WSIS clearly recognized that all aspects of the Internet Governance Forum are a matter for all stakeholders. We are pleased that the UN Secretary General has announced the members of the multistakeholder advisory group, and we welcome the selection of this group. Those business advisors and indeed the whole business community look forward to contributing to a successful first IGF meeting in the same way that our colleagues from civil society, the Internet Community, and governments contribute.

Careful selection of the agenda, consistent with a few defined criteria, will be essential to meet the goal of a successful IGF event in Athens. This preliminary input proposes a few of these criteria and demonstrates how these could be applied to a given topic.

Innovation, creativity and investment by business is a major driving force behind development of the Internet. To ensure its continued positive development, with the involvement of all stakeholders from around the world, we believe it is critical to increase the ability of people to participate in the Internet's development and must be addressed as a priority.

Agenda

Business firmly believes that the first IGF meeting in Athens, and future IGF events will be more successful, if their focus is limited to one overarching topic, and perhaps a few very closely related issues. This view has also been expressed by a number of governments. This would ensure effective use of limited resources both financial and human to achieve substantive progress.

Some of the main objectives of the IGF are: to encourage dialogue, exchange of information and experiences, raise awareness as well as foster a better understanding of all dimensions, challenges, and the existing and ongoing work on a particular issue that could benefit from such global multistakeholder discussion. With the above in mind, an in-depth discussion and exchange among all the attendees will be much more constructive. We believe that participants at the IGF event should come away from it with a substantive experience and this can best be accomplished by ensuring true focus and a sufficient depth of discussion on key aspects of the topic.

Given that the topics selected will be of general interest all attendees are likely to want to participate. For example, especially small delegations will find the single topic approach one that allows all delegations to participate in the entire program.

Criteria for selecting IGF event topic

We believe the following criteria should be applied to any Agenda topic considered for the first IGF, and future IGF events, and should be evaluated, in light of the WSIS objectives and in particular the Tunis Agenda.

Any topic to be considered for the IGF Agenda:

- Should be important to the continued development of the Internet and it should help bring the benefits of the Internet to all people;
- Should truly benefit from further outreach and information exchange in order to build human capacity at the global level to foster a common understanding among all stakeholders;
- It should be ripe for discussion at the time of the IGF and would further the economic and social development objectives contained in the WSIS commitments; and
- The topic should respond to a need expressed by many stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, for assistance in building a knowledge base for their involvement and participation in Internet governance processes.

It is clear that any topics selected will require a variety of experts and their selection as speakers or panellists for the IGF programme must reflect the range of expertise required for the topic(s) under consideration.

Thank you very much. We look forward to contributing further through today's consultation.

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.