

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 4 delivered by Heather Shaw (USCIB) on behalf of ICC/CCBI

Thank you Mr Chairman, Mr Kummer,

- CCBI appreciates your emphasis, Mr Chairman, that the current efforts are to prepare the FIRST IGF event, and that this is indeed a special experiment.
- Given that emphasis, we need to bear in mind that people need to come away from the IGF event in Athens with a productive experience, to feel they have learned and gained in several ways.
- This is best achieved by remaining focused.
- We believe setting a vision for the development orientation of the IGF and promoting an Internet for all is important. This could be achieved by for instance, having an inaugural session following the opening, with leading visionaries that can inspire and set the tone for the IGF event.
- We should be working to ensure that more stakeholders around the world will be prepared to discuss issues in the future, at the IGF and in existing organizations.
- We do not want to be misunderstood----the learning, capacity building, and information exchange is for all stakeholders----it is important to respond to the needs of stakeholders from developing countries, but it should be clear that business of all sizes, including entrepreneurs and small startups from developing countries, also need to build capacities, and all other stakeholders around the world as well. It should be a clear objective to build a common understanding not only about Internet governance issues as we described earlier today, but also to understand what are the needs, what is available, what is going on with regards to outreach and capacity building, best practices, what works, what does not etc.
- We think ideas to make the IGF event more accessible for participants that are not in Athens, should be explored. For example, it may be possible to explore audiocasting, transcripts or other methods.
- Business believes that a report on all discussions at the IGF should capture the range of ideas, perspectives and experiences expressed. Widely published and available substantive reports of the proceedings would further the IGF goal of information sharing, including to those

stakeholders that may not be physically present at the IGF and could be food for thought for organizations considering future work programs or agendas.

To further elaborate on the format that business feels would provide the most constructive discussions on ICT skills training and education, we believe that the informational panels, described in my earlier intervention, could also highlight best practices, and real life examples of challenges addressed.

This would give all stakeholders a common understanding of what is being addressed by whom, and how they can become actively involved and would set the base for any future IGF events to perhaps drill down into particular issues.

Such an inaugural event would promote a common understanding of all of the Internet governance processes, build capacity of all stakeholders from around the world to meaningfully participate in Internet governance issues at the national, regional and international levels.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to inform everyone that the ICC has updated its matrix of organizations addressing issues related to the Internet. The updated matrix is available online at the IGF and ICC websites, and copies are available at the back of the room today.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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.