



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Department of Policy and Business Practices

Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors' interventions by Ms. Ayesha Hasssan, International Chamber of Commerce

25 February 2003 PrepCom II, WSIS

Thank you Mr. Chairman on behalf of the coordinating committee of business interlocutors. We welcome and appreciate the opportunity to offer a business view on the ongoing dialogue.

We are encouraged by the substantive and multistakeholder discussions which took place in the visionary panel and roundtables last week.

We appreciate the diversity of views on the myriad of substantive issues that affect the information society.

As stated in the CCBI outcomes document submitted to PrepCom II as well as the document provided by the ITU, it is essential that we establish a common vision of the global information society. In this regard, in the coming days, we look forward to working with all stakeholders to identify a common vision of the most pressing issues to be addressed by the Summit.

We understand that the Summit will request follow up actions by the business community. Business will be unable to invest in and implement programmes if those programmes are elaborated and managed by others.

We believe that the declaration and action plan should be focused on achievable and measureable goals to ensure in the short term a successful Summit and in the long term the sustainability of a truly global information society.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

26 February 2003 PrepCom II, WSIS

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to all of the participants in PrepCom II on behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors.

PrepCom II is quickly coming to an end, and we feel it is important to convey feedback from the business community in the ways in which this process has unfolded:

First, I would like to express on behalf of ICC's Secretary General, Mrs Cattau and myself that ICC has committed, along with members of CCBI to contribute to and mobilize business for this Summit and the preparatory process.

Second, we respect the fact that this is an intergovernmental process.

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Third, we feel it is important for you to know that there were about 30 business representatives at the first business briefing on Monday 17 February and there are now about 6 of us business representatives here today.

There has been no proper acknowledgement of Business' input and role in this process --- which is why business representatives especially from companies just cannot justify staying.

Further, business representatives have raised concerns about their ability to participate in the preparatory process.

We at ICC and the CCBI cannot change this trend in the business community and help to ensure a high level public business support without a positive showing from this process of the important role of business in implementing any action plan.

The World Bank representative who participated in PrepCom II was very clear that for every dollar the World Bank puts into ICT oriented development initiatives, there is 3 times that amount put up by business. This underscores the importance of the partnership that must be developed to achieve the objectives of this Summit.

We want to work with you, and in this process to make this Summit a success but we cannot do it unless there is space carved out for business.

Business is uniquely placed to add practical experiences and a pragmatic filter for the implementation of the action plan.

There are 5 specific requests that business needs to see to address the current departure and disengagement from this process ----

1. The substantive contributions submitted by CCBI and business entities must be clearly taken into account in the declaration and plan of action
2. A business observer should be allowed to attend the drafting group sessions
3. When business raises its nameplate---proper recognition should be given or an explanation
4. Business must be at the table for discussions in any inter-session process set up leading to PrepCom III
5. There must be an assured place for business in PrepCom III well in advance

Mr Chairman, once again, we want to work with you to bring business to this process and ensure that business will be there to help implement the action plan and initiatives from this Summit, we can only request that business be given an appropriate contributing role within the process---to do so.

Thank you and thank you to all of the distinguished participants for their attention and action.

27 February 2003 PrepCom II, WSIS

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of the Coordinating committee of business interlocutors, I would like to express



that the opportunity to have the introductory meeting with the members of the Bureau yesterday evening was much appreciated and a step in the right direction.

As discussed last night, we look forward to a response to our requests in our intervention yesterday, and to a clear understanding of how business can become a partner in the continuing drafting of the declaration and action plan.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

28 February 2003 PrepCom II, WSIS

Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors, business strongly believes that ALL Stakeholders should be working from today forward to continue to build the Information Society according to their respective roles.

As such, the business community has demonstrated its commitment to the information society through its past and ongoing investments and through appropriate public/private partnerships. The private sector will make future such decisions according to policy, regulatory and market conditions.

We look forward to pursuing our shared goal of a robust and inclusive information society both through the WSIS process and through the normal course of our business activities.

We also look forward to our ongoing discussions with governments as observers, and with the WSIS executive secretariat throughout the preparatory process.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for your leadership and distinguished participants for your attention.