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Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)

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The Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS offers the following input regarding the proposed texts on paragraph NEW 27B of Chapter Two of the operational part on financial mechanisms:

CCBI recommends deletion of this NEW paragraph for several reasons:

- First, this topic is being raised for the first time in the context of WSIS negotiation group proceedings without the opportunity for full involvement of other stakeholders in discussions of the issues.
- Second, a primary aim of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action and WSIS Tunis commitments is the creation of enabling environments to attract investment in ICTs and the Internet. The proposed texts encourage actions that would not serve to attract investment. To the contrary, it could discourage investment needed to provide job opportunities, infrastructure development and economic growth.
- Third, the very transnational corporations that are being identified in these texts are those who are in fact bringing investment to many countries, and the action proposed in this text would deter such investment.
- Fourth, effective voluntary CSR is addressed by individual countries' laws and customs, and therefore should be handled at national levels. In addition, corporate governance is a financial /accounting issue that is governed by national laws and regulations.
- Fifth, many companies already have corporate social responsibility programmes and initiatives to address these issues that they have undertaken voluntarily. Governmental dialogue attempting to mandate what companies should do could actually be counterproductive to promoting voluntary, corporate social responsibility programmes and initiatives.
- There is a clear need for a true multistakeholder approach to ICT for development that creates an enabling environment for all parties.
- For these reasons, CCBI recommends that this paragraph should be deleted.