Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
Tunis, 16 – 18 November 2005

PrepCom-3 – 19-30 September 2005
Subcommittee A Internet governance

Intervention by Allen Miller (WITSA)
Monday 26 September 2005

Thank you Chair. On behalf of CCBI we would like to express our appreciation the Chair's efforts to bring together many complex issues in a detailed and coherent manner. We thank you for the opportunity to provide initial general comments on your Internet governance paper. While we will discuss several general principles that we believe should be the focus of Chapter 3 of the Tunis Operational Document in our intervention this morning, we would also like to inform delegates that we have developed specific comments on each paragraph of the paper, and made several proposals that elaborate on our general principles. We look forward to continuing to provide specific input as the chapter evolves over the course of this week.

First, our comments and written suggestions are directed to the fundamental purpose of the WSIS to create enhanced access to ICTs for development and to ensure the continued stability, security and robustness of the Internet. There are many elements necessary to achieve those goals, and we hope that all of us will direct our efforts to adopting the best approach for each. While we will address all of them where appropriate, we believe that capacity building, which links Internet governance to the purpose of the Summit, should be the primary theme of the chapter, and thus propose that it be clearly reflected in the Introductory section of the chapter. In this regard, education and ICT skills workforce development is the cornerstone of success in the use of ICTs and in promoting the information society for all.

Second, the efforts of the private sector and the wider Internet community have driven the extraordinary growth of the Internet around the world. An enabling environment is essential in order to continue that growth and extend it, particularly to the least developed countries. The creation and maintenance of that environment must be emphasized and supported in the document written this week.

It is critical that national and regional policies implement legal and regulatory frameworks that are pro-competitive, spur investment, and foster entrepreneurship. An enabling environment that can attract investment will get investment, resulting in improved infrastructure, reduced costs, and economic and social development. For example, appropriate national and regional policies that support the creation and development of national and regional Internet exchange points can reduce international Internet costs

incurred by developing countries, thereby reducing interconnection costs and broadening network access.

Third, we urge recognition of extraordinary work of existing mechanisms and current programs already underway. We believe that they can and will achieve many of the WSIS goals more quickly, more effectively and cost efficiently than any other alternative. It is important to recognize and support their continued exercise of their respective core competencies

Several current organizations are finding solutions for the wide range of challenges involved in current work on internationalized domain names. This work encompasses complicated technical, political and policy issues that must be carefully considered.

Similarly, CCBI believes that the final document should recognize those policies adopted by current institutions and mechanisms where they have successfully addressed issues. For example, the goal of making Internet resources available to meet the needs of stakeholders globally should be based on technical approaches that meet the growing demand, while keeping the risks to the stability and security of the Internet low. Private sector leadership in this area provides the opportunity for governmental and civil society participation and should be supported.

Fourth, a fundamental recognition that must be kept in mind throughout the document is that the success of the Internet and its governance is the result of a cooperative and collaborative effort amongst all stakeholders. Each stakeholder has an important role to play in Internet governance, and the document should emphasize the shared responsibilities and opportunities for each to contribute to the Internet's growth, stability and robustness.

While governments have responsibilities for Internet-related public policy issues, other stakeholders should also be involved in public policy development. The Internet has functioned well and flourished in a distributed and decentralized manner, and should be allowed to continue to do so. However, the complex and collaborative nature of Internet governance necessitates continued improvements in communication among international, intergovernmental and other institutions and stakeholders regarding Internet governance activities.

We wish to ensure a strong commitment to full and effective multistakeholder participation throughout the chapter, recognizing all relevant stakeholders. Much of the WSIS has focused on the roles of governments, the private sector and civil society in the continued development and governance of the Internet. The important role of the wider Internet community cannot be ignored. In order to ensure the fullest development and expansion of the Internet the involvement of the technical community is vital.

Finally, we reemphasize the critical importance for achieving the development and other objectives central to WSIS and that all stakeholders commit to protect the current healthy state of the Internet. Change should be evolutionary and carefully considered. There is much positive to be built upon. We need to support what is already good, improve where we can and always assure that we will not turn back the progress we can see everyday.

Again, we look forward to consulting with delegates on our specific proposals to address these points.

Thank you.

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 will take place in 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 CCBI, is constituted of the following organizations and their members: Among the organizations actively involved in the work of the CCBI, in addition to ICC, are: Associacion Hispanoamericana de Centros de Investigacion y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones, Brazilian Chamber of Electronic Commerce, the Business Council of the United Nations, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD; Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce; Global Information Infrastructure Commission; Money Matters Institute; United States Council on International Business; World Economic Forum; World Information Technology and Services Alliance; French Publishers Association; International Publishers Association; and Gobierno Digital.

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, the only representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world. ICC promotes an open international trade and investment system and the market economy. 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.

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