

World Summit on the Information Society
**The Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors
(CCBI)**

Intersessional Meeting 17 July 2003

INTERVENTION 1

by Adel Danish, Chair, Masreya

**Main Principles for the World Summit on the Information
Society Declaration**

Madame Chair, President, I am Adel Danish, on behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors.

Business believes that, to promote the development of a truly global information society for all, the World Summit on the Information Society should declare that all stakeholders must work to facilitate broader and global access to ICT and information as important tools to promote economic development, social development, human rights, cultural diversity and freedom of expression.

To achieve these goals we feel that the declaration should clearly prioritize the following principles:

1. Creation of the fundamental building blocks of the information society:
 - A secure infrastructure
 - A sound and equitable education and health care system
 - A recognition of the benefits of ICT applications, such as e-learning, e-health and e-government
2. Adoption of pro-competitive, transparent and predictable policies that promote investment in ICT infrastructure, applications and content.
3. Recognition of the role of ICTs in economic development, social growth and poverty reduction, including the use of ICT as important tools in achieving the Millennium Declaration.
4. Development of national ICT strategies that create an opportunity for measurable targets to assess progress toward their implementation.
5. Promotion of Public-private partnerships for capacity building and human resource development.
6. Commitment to an open policymaking process where all stakeholders can contribute equally, recognizing their unique contributions to policy dialogues.

The above stated principles endeavor to capture the priorities for an information society characterized by creation of content, access to knowledge, economic growth and opportunity, cultural and linguistic diversity, equality for women, youth and other often underrepresented

communities, and rich environment for local content in the context of the existing international framework/convention for human rights.

Achieving an information society so characterized requires infrastructure development, pro-competitive market policies, open policymaking processes, a supportive environment for public-private partnerships and a commitment to capacity building.

These strategies can be implemented through:

- 1) Development of National ICT Strategies with achievable objectives and measurable goals;
- 2) Implementation of transparent and predictable legal and regulatory environments that encourage investment, entrepreneurship, economic development and a healthy business environment;
- 3) Commitment to education and skills development for all segments of society; and
- 4) Promotion of information sharing about creating secure and reliable networks.

To conclude, the principles address priority issues that will create a meaningful framework for sustainable progress toward a truly global information society for all. The universally shared goals of access, cultural diversity, local content, and trust benefit from these principles.

Finally, business would like to reiterate our support for a short and concise declaration that recognizes existing work by expert and specialized international organizations so as to prevent duplication which would waste limited resources.