

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

Intersessional Meeting 18 July 2003

INTERVENTION

**By Allen Miller, Executive Director,
World Information Technology and Services Alliance
(WITSA)**

Thank you Madam Chair, Mr President and delegates for the progress made this week on the draft Declaration. We also would like to thank you for the ability to participate throughout the Intersessional meeting. We look forward to work with you to ensure that the entire range of business views are reflected in the final version of the Declaration and Plan of Action.

This morning we will comment on only a few issues in the revised draft Declaration. These of course are initial views on a limited set of key concerns. We will provide you with more detailed comments on the final revised draft Declaration after consultation with our broad membership.

1. Business strongly believes that market forces are the best means to ensure the development of a global information society. Government policies should promote competition in an effective market-place, limiting intervention to situations where there a particular and clearly defined market failures.

2. Business is uncertain as to the details of a national solidarity fund. We would like to note that there are many alternative models to address financing for development as part of a national strategy. If reference to a solidarity fund is preserved we believe that the details of it, including financing should be left to national governments through consultation with all stakeholders.
3. We would like to reiterate our views stated yesterday that sections relating to software development models should promote choice and neutrality. We understand that all references to open-source software are in brackets.
4. We have some hesitation regarding the reference to the Internet as a global public good. We believe that the Internet is a global network and resource that can and should be used to promote the public good.
5. We believe that it is critically important to reinsert the reference to the need for an independent and effective regulator given the importance of such a regulator in promoting effective competition with its resulting benefits to consumers.
6. As stated yesterday, business strongly supports continued private sector leadership of the technical coordination of the Internet and cannot support a reference to intergovernmental organizations assuming this role, as it is incompatible with private sector leadership. We do recognize the important role of governments in establishing public policy through consultation with all stakeholders.

7. We believe that it is essential to preserve in the Declaration as a priority references to the importance of trade liberalization of goods and services, effective intellectual property protection, the rule of law and good governance as elements of an enabling environment to attract the private sector investment necessary to bring the global information society to fruition.

8. Finally, we would like to reiterate our view that the Declaration should recognize the importance of the development of national strategies to promote the information society.

Thank you Madam Chair, Mr President and all delegates and we look forward to continuing to work with you as the preparatory process proceeds.