

**Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)
World Summit on the Information Society, WSIS
Tunis, 16 – 18 November 2005**

**Intervention by Ayesha Hassan (ICC) on behalf of CCBI
23 February 2005
WSIS Tunis, PrepCom 2**

Thank you Madame Chairperson

On behalf of the members of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS, I will present a very short message.

There are shared goals of empowering people through an Information Society available to all.

Principles for the Information Society were agreed to at WSIS Phase 1. WSIS Phase 2 must build upon these, not re-op existing agreements and lose the progress of the past three years.

Many players, including business, are ready to contribute to further growth of the Information Society, ready to bring to reality the goal of ICT4ALL; to bring the goal of sustainable development to all.

At the World Summit on the Information Society, it is the future of the Information Society that will be set.

There are shared goals for the Information Society.

The business entities here are now sharing a new feeling --- a feeling of concern for the key elements for success of the Information Society:

- an enabling environment
- empowering people
- choice of technologies
- choice for consumers
- promoting innovation and productivity

The businesses here have been most supportive of the WSIS process, but are now very concerned that the perception of others in the business community looking at the results of this meeting will see the creation of an environment that

is unfriendly, maybe even hostile, to the private sector's role in the Information Society.

We are happy to make our written comments on the political chapeau available to anyone who is interested.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

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: Asociacion 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/wsisis/index.html>
the CCBI website at www.businessatwsisis.net
or ICC's website at: http://www.iccwbo.org/home/e_business/wsisis.asp
or contact wsisis@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.