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English only

Coordinating Committee on Business Interlocutors (CCBI)

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

CCBI input on Chapters One and Four of Operational Part of WSIS-Tunis documents

CCBI is pleased to provide the following contributions pursuant to the call for input dated 8 April 2005.

Operational part

CCBI continues to believe that the operational part of the document should focus on showing progress on the commitments made at WSIS-Geneva to complement the Declaration and Plan of Action. In that regard, particular recognition should be given to areas/countries where progress has been made on the commitments in the Declaration and Plan of Action regarding the essentials:

- creation of the necessary environment for ICT infrastructure
- education
- capacity building
- policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that are pro-competitive, spur investment, and foster entrepreneurship, while highlighting the critical need for continued progress in creating enabling environments for investment and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.

The rule of law, intellectual property protection, liberalized telecommunications infrastructure, and trade commitments should all be recognized as essential components of an enabling environment.

- We reiterate our belief that the term “moderator” is a more appropriate description in connection with each team of stakeholders, since the role would be more as a moderator, a facilitator, and/or a catalyst in stimulating interactions among the various stakeholder representatives who will be accountable to governments, international organizations, civil society groups, intergovernmental organizations, and business entities. This term should be used in paragraphs 10, 11 and the Annex.
- In the discussion of paragraph 25, we recommend that a prime consideration should be creating and maintaining an enabling environment that stimulates investment, assists local micro and small enterprises to grow, promotes economic growth, and that does not impose inhibitors to development.

**Input on comments in the compilation of comments from PrepCom 2
[“Compilation of comments on chapter one of the operational part
(implementation mechanism)”
Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DT/2(Rev.2)-E -21 March 2005]**

- A. CCBI supports the input new 6 bis and 6b from the ILO, OECD, and UNCTAD

ILO, OECD, UNCTAD comment

[new 6 bis] 6. bis. International organizations could develop their policy analysis and capacity building programmes based on practical and replicable experiences of ICT policies and actions that have led to economic growth and poverty alleviation through improved competitiveness of enterprises, resulting in greater trade and better employment. Such programmes should result from policy development dialogues that seek to render international and national development strategies coherent.

ILO, OECD, UNCTAD comment

[replace 6b with] b. A healthy business environment is fundamental for firms to thrive and benefit from ICTs. This includes an open, transparent and competitive business, clear independent rule of law for all firms, easy se-up and dissolution of business, transparent, simple and accessible corporate regulations and equal and stable legal treatment for national and cross border transactions. The availability of transaction facilities, trust mechanisms, logistics and transportation and access to energy and communication facilities are essential;

- B. CCBI supports the input re 6 c from the ILO, OECD and UNCTAD regarding education and training as fundamental components to achieving the objectives of integrating ICTs to promote economic growth and social development and an information society for all.

ILO, OECD, UNCTAD comment

[replace 6c. with] c. The introduction of ICTs requires training and retraining of the labour force. It further requires a profound review of education and training system to ensure that the workforce will be able to adapt to increasingly more frequent changes in work practices;

- C. CCBI does **not** support Brazil's comments re: 6 e)
... making/providing/ensuring **universal and** affordable accessibility to hardware...
- D. CCBI does **not** support the Arab group's comments re: 6 e)
... aimed at ~~making/providing/ensuring~~ affordable accessibility to hardware...

- E. CCBI supports [new 6k1,6k2 and 6k3], submitted by the ILO, OECD, and UNCTAD and proposes text for new 6k3 v.

[new 6k1.] k1. The potential of ICTs to facilitate and increase trade should be included in national and multilateral trade policies and negotiations;

[new 6k2.] k2. The development of entrepreneurship is an indispensable component of any ICT implementation policy. E-competences could be integrated by raising awareness, transferring knowledge and building competence of entrepreneurs such that they can make rational decisions as to where and when they should utilize ICTs;

[new 6k3.] k3. Particular efforts should be deployed to facilitate the access of SMEs or ICTs. Such efforts should include:

- i. Promoting business development services that assist in the design of business models, redefinition of production process and the assessment of the most cost effective means of implementing ICTs solutions;
- ii. Exploring effective ways of providing inexpensive access to ICTs;
- iii. Integrating SMEs into supply chains by adopting industrial and trade policies that seek to expand both exports and local value added;
- iv. Encouraging commercial access o reliable, low-cost connections and boosting local content. Reliability and security of the service is important to maintain customer relationship;

Proposed new 6k3 v. [CCBI]

- v. Establishing mechanisms that help local SMEs to customize products and applications to their particular market and cultural context.

Chapter four (The way ahead)

- Many actors have highlighted the benefits of having a forum for discussion regarding policy and partnership issues related to ICTs and the Information Society. CCBI supports the concept of a forum for discussion to provide the needed information and a place for exchange of views to serve as a catalyst in the growth and evolution of the Information Society.
- We believe that any forum or initiative should be a joint effort with an equal partnership of all stakeholders. CCBI does not view any forum that may be set up as part of the follow-up to WSIS Tunis as having decision-making authority or to be the creation of a new intergovernmental body.
- CCBI members recognize that there will be need for continuous assessment and evaluation of the WSIS Geneva and Tunis protocols as they relate to meeting the Millenium Declaration Goals (MDGs). This is an important consideration in shaping the follow-up and implementation.

Business priorities regarding the follow-up and implementation are as follows:

1. As was stated in the joint statement by the civil society plenary and CCBI during PrepCom 2 [excerpts below]:
 - a) We consider the multi-stakeholder approach, as agreed in Principle 1 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, must be the guiding principle of all WSIS implementation and follow-up mechanisms.
 - b) WSIS Plan of Action implementation and any follow-up mechanisms should be established under the responsibility of the UN Secretary General.
 - c) Any implementation team should be multi-stakeholder and composed through an open and inclusive process.
 - d) Any “coordination mechanism/activity” should be multi-stakeholder and the formation process and working methods of any such body should draw heavily on the lessons of the Working Group on Internet Governance.
 - e) We consider the establishment of national multi-stakeholder dialogues in all countries as recommended in paragraph C1 8b) of the Geneva Plan of Action must be a key component of any implementation and follow-up mechanisms.

CCBI looks forward to providing additional comments and input on the follow up and implementation mechanisms for WSIS.

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/wsis/index.html>
the CCBI website at www.businessatwsis.net
or ICC's website at: http://www.iccwbo.org/home/e_business/wsis.asp
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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