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 on Internet Governance

CCBI comments on Section 4 of the Chair's Internet Governance Paper
Intervention by Heather Shaw (USCIB)
Monday 26 September 2005

Thank you, Chair.

We believe that this section, which focuses on the true purpose of WSIS, deserves significant attention. In this regard, we appreciate the opportunity to provide specific comments on your paper.

In paragraph 57, we suggest that the first sentence be deleted. Furthermore, subparagraphs a and b should be deleted. We also suggest that you add to the end of the main paragraph *"creating a liberalized environment that encourages backbone providers to locate network access points locally, implementing Internet exchange points nationally and regionally, and facilitating the creation of more local content."*

Our rationale for these comments is that it has been extensively documented that transit costs are competitive and have decreased from 50-30 % since 2003. Thus, the call to reduce the transit costs is inappropriate. It is also well documented that implementation of the other points will eliminate any current uneven distribution of costs. No one has proven that there is an "uneven sharing" of the costs. The focus should be on lowering costs for everyone. This issue can be addressed by fostering open and competitive markets and national level attention.

In paragraph 58 we would like to remind you of the text we proposed by on September 22, which we think would be an appropriate replacement here.

"Governments, businesses, civil Society working together, including where appropriate, through partnerships for education and Training in developing countries, can improve and expand the availability of basic education, and develop the human capacity to participate effectively on Internet governance-related issues nationally, regionally, and globally by such steps as:

- *Committing to ICT education and training as a top priority to ensure that people have opportunities to acquire the necessary ICT skills,*

- *Establishing national strategies for ICT education and workforce development in consultation with private and academic sectors that will be one part of overall national education and ICT Strategies,*

- *Establishing goals and dedicating the financial, people and physical resources to achieve the goals that include metrics that are time-related and measurable, and*

- *Integrating ICT curricula into formal education systems - within the formal secondary, vocational and tertiary education systems as well as through labor/workshop training"*

Furthermore, as a general point, we believe that Capacity should be built for internet governance and ICTs generally rather than limiting it to "internet management."

In paragraph 59 Insert "*including online participation via the Internet and other technologies.*"
Initiatives to bring information and resources to developing countries, including those that use technology available in the Information Society, leads to the development of sustainable activities within the country itself and deserve continued support.

In paragraph 60 we urge recognition that introduction of IDNs raises complicated technical, political and policy issues that must be carefully considered. These issues are currently being addressed by several organizations at a pace that ensures the continued stability and security of the Internet. Replace "we would speed up process" with "*we encourage continued progress towards"* and insert at end of paragraph *"at a pace that fully and carefully considers the involved complicated technical and policy issues."*

Finally, in paragraph 61, we believe that the elements of an enabling environment must be specifically mentioned. Without the components of the enabling environment in place, the other objectives are not obtainable. After "enabling environment" insert text *"Including the establishment of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that are pro-competitive, spur investment, and foster entrepreneurship, while highlighting the critical need for continued progress creates an environment for investment and innovation."*

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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