

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

**Input on ‘political chapeau’ and implementation sections of the document
to be signed at WSIS-Tunis (November 2005)**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the ‘political chapeau’ and implementation sections of the document to be drafted by the ‘Group of the friends of the Chair’. Given that this document will be negotiated at PrepCom II in February 2005 and signed by government leaders at WSIS-Tunis, CCBI recommends that the draft document take the following issues into consideration:

Political Chapeau

- The importance of all stakeholders in fulfilling the objectives of the WSIS Geneva Declaration and Plan of Action and the document(s) to be signed at WSIS-Tunis;
- The Internet is private sector led;
- The private sector is an equal partner in changing the ‘digital divide’ to digital opportunities;
- The enabling environment is crucial to private sector investment
 - Rule of Law
 - Intellectual property protection
 - Liberalized telecommunications infrastructure
 - Trade commitments
- The commitments and language of the Declaration and Plan of Action signed at WSIS-Geneva, 2003 should be acknowledged;

Implementation section

- Focus on showing progress on the commitments made at WSIS-Geneva to complement the Declaration and Plan of Action;
- Highlight the critical need for progress in creating enabling environments for investment and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Take the Plan of Action one step further: identify 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;
- Ensure coordination with the UN Secretary General's Task Force on Financial Mechanisms and the Working Group on Internet Governance as their work proceeds to prevent overlap and duplications; and
- Create a way for governments and other stakeholders to learn from the challenges and experiences of others in implementing these commitments.

CCBI looks forward to providing further comments on this document as it develops.

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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