

Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)

**World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
Tunis, 16-18 November 2005**

**Comments from CCBI for 24 February 2005 on the Preliminary Report
of the Working Group on Internet Governance**

Intervention by Marilyn Cade on behalf of CCBI

**24 February 2005
WSIS Tunis, PrepCom 2**

Thank you Chairman

On behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS, I am pleased to provide you with our input on the Preliminary Report of the Working Group on Internet Governance. CCBI welcomes the contribution from this group and looks forward to receiving its final report in July.

In establishing this multi stakeholder working group on Internet Governance, Secretary General Kofi Annan has created a new welcomed model of governments, international organizations, civil society, and business working together. CCBI notes the remarks of Chairman Desai, at the opening of its Open Consultations on February 15 about how the different stakeholders are working in a true spirit of multi-stakeholder cooperation. CCBI commends the group on its environment and direction of their work to date.

CCBI also appreciates the Working Group's openness and inclusiveness in its operating practices. The many opportunities for non-members of the group to respond to the work of the group and to provide input and observations is most appreciated. We especially commend the group for utilizing both technological mechanisms, and face to face opportunities for input and comment by interested non members. The outreach undertaken has broadened the understanding and awareness of the group and its work.

In conducting their work together, the Working Group has identified a broad and inclusive set of issues that can be considered in discussing "Internet Governance". They have also devoted considerable time to analyzing and studying these issues, to ensuring that they understand these issues and their present status, identifying and clarifying misunderstandings about how the Internet's technology works.

The initial stages of their work is now documented in a set of working papers. CCBI acknowledges the benefit of having undertaken this process as a means to support the shared examination by the WGIG members of the various perspectives and to create shared understandings. CCBI supports

WGIG's decision to limit further work on the papers to correcting obvious errors rather than spending extensive additional time in redrafting.

With the understanding that the papers and all other inputs received will be a basis for further discussion, we agree that it is important for the group to move forward, guided by their original Terms of Reference. They should address and explore the issues with regard to Internet governance, to understand and examine the roles and responsibilities of existing organizations, the various stakeholders, and continue with the preparation of their final work products.

CCBI supports paragraph 32's focus on the role of technological innovation. With respect to "the fast moving technological environment" and the "need to be action oriented mentioned", we believe that activities undertaken to address "Internet governance" need to accommodate these while being market/user driven and providing a stable and secure Internet.

CCBI endorses the observations in paragraph 31 that the term "governance" does not refer exclusively to "government activities"; that Internet Governance includes organized and cooperative activities between different stakeholders; and that Internet governance encompasses a wider range of issues, conditions and mechanisms than IP numbering and domain name administration.

In fact, the Key Issues enumerated in paragraph 34 attest to the wide range of issues that could be encompassed by the term "Internet governance". CCBI notes that many organizations and entities are engaged in those issues today in various forms of "governance" including international organizations, national governments, business, civil society, and multi-stakeholder processes. CCBI supports WGIG's efforts to identify, understand and examine those organizations and stakeholders, to understand their work before recommending changes to the system.

And, as an overall point, CCBI recommends that the Working Group adopt an "evolutionary" rather than a "revolutionary" approach in any recommendations that they may ultimately make.

Finally, CCBI concurs with the proposal of future work and looks forward to reviewing and commenting on the work of the group as outlined in the report.

CCBI is happy to clarify, or respond to any questions regarding our contributions,

Thank you for the opportunity to make these remarks.

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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