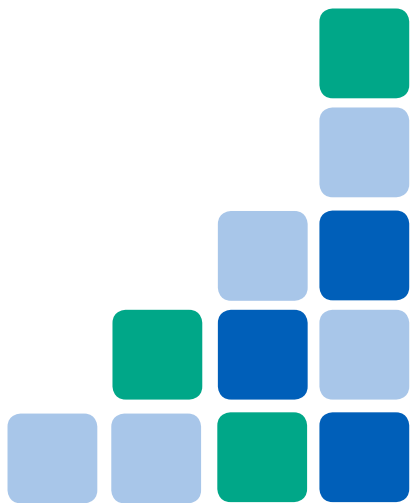


CHAMBER CHARTER

“OUR PRINCIPLES”



ICC
WORLD CHAMBERS
FEDERATION



Preface

Representing the business community in all of its components, sizes and sectors is the chamber of commerce and industry. With a heritage spanning more than 400 years, chambers are in business to strengthen local businesses and the economic prosperity of their communities. Chambers are found in almost every business community around the world, and have established a well-recognized global network and global brand, that has local impact and relevance.

This “Chamber Charter” was developed by an international and experienced group of chamber leaders from all continents and regions, serving on the World Chambers Federation (WCF) General Council.

Published on the occasion of the 9th World Chambers Congress in Torino, in June 2015, this document is a declaration issued on behalf of the chamber community, recognizing the important role and commitment chambers have in business and society, and in particular towards entrepreneurs.

ICC World Chambers Federation is the unique and truly global forum uniting the global network of more than 12,000 chambers from every country around the world.

WCF facilitates the exchange of best practice and fosters the development of new global products and services for chambers. It also contributes to create international partnerships between chambers and other stakeholders and help their local businesses grow. WCF was established by ICC in 1950 as the International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce (IBCC).

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We, the Chambers,

are

- The leading business organization in our communities, with global coverage and unique heritage spanning more than 400 years;
- Devoted to strengthening economic growth, prosperity and sustainability, locally, nationally and worldwide;
- Advocating the global interests of our business communities, especially the prominent role of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs);
- Aiming to promote a positive environment for business and to defend the rights of entrepreneurs;
- Lead by our business members, and operating independent of any political position, we serve as a bridge between the private sector, governments and various stakeholders, active in economic development;
- Extensively working and co-operating in regional, national and international networks.

We, the Chambers,

act to

- Provide innovative and relevant services that strengthen our members;
- Advocate policies that improve the business climate and contribute to the sustainable development of companies of all sizes and sectors, but predominantly SMEs;
- Contribute to the economic development and attractiveness of our region;
- Help companies discover new horizons, operate ethical and sustainable business practices, and become engaged in internationalization and e-commerce / e-business activities;
- Develop alliances and public private partnership with organizations that build a prosperous community.

We, the Chambers,

shall continue our efforts to

- Make certain that business regulations and taxation is fair and efficient and does not place our businesses at a competitive disadvantage;
- Ensure that governments remain accountable for their actions, and that the business services they operate, are delivered in an efficient, and economical manner;
- Consult with government agencies that affect business to ensure that they view chambers as privileged and effective partners for private sector needs;
- Promote the protection of intellectual and private property rights;
- Be key players in raising skills for the leaders of tomorrow, promote an educational system that prepares people for gainful employment, provide vocational training and development of apprenticeship training where possible;
- Be facilitators for the creation, growth and transfer of businesses; create an economic vision for the future of our communities; promote economic development opportunities and implement actions to promote and support entrepreneurship and job creation;
- Provide a lead role in the internationalisation of companies, through accompaniment, services and trade facilitation, becoming trusted partners with customs;

- Helping companies adapt to a changing environment, e.g. through provision of economic and business information, access to finance, CSR, innovation, R&D, e-commerce, environment and energy services etc;
- Help prevent commercial disputes by promoting national and international business rules and best practices and solve disputes by alternative dispute procedures (conciliation, mediation and arbitration).

We, the Chambers,

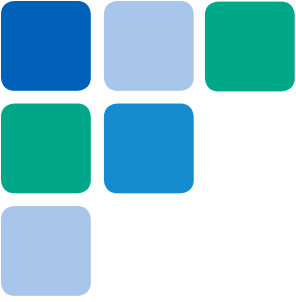
commit to

- Promoting the importance of and develop actions to global interconnections and exchanges between our local, national and international networks;
- Promote high standards business best practices on national and international scale;
- Contribute to reduce digital divide by helping companies, especially SMEs, to adapt to the changing digital world and implement new e-commerce/e-business techniques and best practices;
- Develop a mark of distinction and quality accreditation of our activities that benefit our business community;
- Build and consolidate capacities of chambers in developing countries.

We, the Chambers,

call for international agencies,
national and local governments to

- Recognize and respect our role as intermediary organizations representing and accompanying the business community;
- Reinforce and implement, where needed, a national legislation protecting the « Chamber » brand;
- Support our actions to promote and develop entrepreneurship;
- Take advantage of our legitimacy and know-how as a basis for co-operation and partnership rather than building new and competing activities;
- Build upon our global network to develop international trade formalities, trust tools and recognized business best practices in physical and digital worlds;
- Insert systematically capacity building of Chambers in the frame of State co-operation grants for the benefit of developing countries.



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