



WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY November 2003

Introduction

From its inception, the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) has supported and participated in preparatory meetings for the World Summit on the Information Society. WITSA was a founding member of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI), an umbrella group established by the International Chamber of Commerce to provide unified business input into the WSIS process.

In November 2002, WITSA released its Roadmap for the World Summit on the Information Society that advocated a three-focus approach for WSIS. WITSA advocated that WSIS concentrate on basic education, the underlying telecommunications infrastructure, and applications that benefit society such as e-health and e-education. That Roadmap can be found at www.witsa.org.

WITSA issues this Statement immediately prior to the Geneva phase of the Summit to highlight its current major areas of interest and focus.

World Information Technology and Services Alliance

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a consortium of 53 information technology (IT) industry associations from economies around the world. As the global voice of the IT industry, WITSA is dedicated to advocating policies that advance the industry's growth and development; facilitating international trade and investment in IT products and services; strengthening WITSA's national industry associations through the sharing of knowledge, experience, and critical information; providing members with a vast network of contacts in nearly every geographic region of the world; and hosting the biennial World Congress on Information Technology, the premier industry sponsored global IT policy event, and the biennial Global Public Policy Summit. Founded in 1978 and originally known as the World Computing Services Industry Association, WITSA has increasingly assumed an active advocacy role in international public policy issues affecting the creation of a robust global information infrastructure. For additional information about WITSA and its activities, go to <http://www.witsa.org>.

Statement

As a member of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI), WITSA adopts their Statement as follows:

Ten Steps to an Information Society

The global business community is committed to speeding the development of a truly worldwide information society that can foster economic growth and social well-being for all. It recognizes that capabilities based on information and communications technologies (ICTs) can serve as vital tools for sustainable economic development, knowledge sharing, societal interaction and freedom of expression, particularly in the world's least developed countries.

Only by business and governments working together with other partners can people everywhere be assured access to ICT tools and the knowledge and empowerment they deliver.

Business looks forward to working with governments, international organizations and civil society to carry out the following ten-point action programme:

1. Assemble and provide the fundamental building blocks of the Information Society:
 - reliable access to secure information and communications networks and services;
 - sound and broadly available education and training systems to build human capacities; and
 - appropriate integration of ICTs in the provision by governments of essential citizen services, such as healthcare and other systems, to expand capabilities, reduce costs, and improve productivity and the quality of life for people.
2. Establish national legal systems that are predictable, transparent, clear to everyone and that respect the principle of non-discrimination.
3. Ensure that public policies and regulations governing national systems promote competition as a preferred means of governing markets for ICT services and products.
4. Create a legal, policy and regulatory environment that stimulates the needed private investment in ICTs including:
 - strong intellectual property protection consistent with existing international agreements;
 - trade liberalization;
 - technology neutrality with respect to user choice; and
 - respect for negotiation and implementation of commercial, value-based agreements between businesses.
5. Make sure that policy making is based on effective communication between governments and business at national, regional and international levels.
6. Remove barriers that hinder innovation, entrepreneurship and the creation of new businesses, including small and medium size enterprises.
7. Use public-private partnerships to create educational and training facilities, and access points, capable of developing the skills people need to participate in the Information Society. Information and communications technologies should be included in the curriculum at all levels of educational systems and as part of worker continuing education and national education strategies.
8. Expand programmes to encourage businesses of all sizes to integrate ICTs in their operations and thereby improve the performance and the productivity of their employees.
9. Combat cybercrime with a global culture of information and communications network security and an appropriate legal framework.
10. Work to incorporate ICTs into national and international social and economic development strategies that promote an Information Society for all.

Business is committed to building upon existing public-private ICT partnerships and to the creation of enabling environments. This will stimulate private investment in the infrastructure necessary to support the sustainable development of the Information Society. Business can thus fulfill its role through a comprehensive approach that incorporates both short-term and long-term strategies.



WITSA Members

Argentina	Cámara de Empresas de Software y Servicios Informáticos (CESSI)
Australia	Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA)
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS)
Brazil	Sociedade de Usuários de Informática e Telecomunicações - Sao Paulo (Sucesu-SP)
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Association of Information Technologies (BAIT)
Canada	Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC)
Chinese Taipei	Information Service Industry Association of Chinese Taipei (CISA)
Colombia	Colombian Software Industry Federation (FEDESOFIT)
Czech Republic	Association for Consulting to Business (Asociace Pro Poradenství v Podnikání - APP)
Ecuador	Association Ecuatoriana de Tecnología de Información y Servicios (AETIS)
Egypt	Egyptian Software Information & Communication Technology Chamber
Finland	Federation of the Finnish Information Industries
France	Syntec Informatique
Greece	Federation of Hellenic Information Technology and Communications Enterprises (SEPE)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Information Technology Federation (HKITF)
India	National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)
Indonesia	ASPILUKI - Indonesian Telematic Software Association
Israel	Israeli Association of Software Houses (IASH)
Italy	Associazione Nazionale Aziende Servizi Informatica e Telematica
Japan	Japan Information Technology Services Industry Association (JISA)
Jordan	Information Technology Association - Jordan
Kenya	Computer Society of Kenya (CSK)
Lithuania	Association of the information technology, telecommunications and office equipment companies of Lithuania (INFOBALT)
Malaysia	Association of the Computer And Multimedia Industry Malaysia (PIKOM)
Mexico	Asociación Mexicana de la Industria de Tecnologías de Información (AMITI)
Mongolia	Mongolian National Information Technology Association
Morocco	l'Association des Professionnels des Technologies de l'Information (APEBI)
Nepal	Computer Association of Nepal (CAN)
Netherlands	Federation of Dutch Branch Associations in Information Technology (Federatie Nederlandse IT - FENIT)
New Zealand	Information Technology Association of New Zealand (ITANZ)
Northern Ireland	Momentum - The Northern Ireland ICT Federation

Norway	ICT Norway (IKT Norge)
Panama	Asociación Panameña de Software (APS)
Poland	Polish Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications (Polska Izba Informatyki i Telekomunikacji - PIIT)
Portugal	Associação Portuguesa das Empresas de Tecnologias de Informação e Comunicações (APESI)
Republic of Korea	Federation of Korean Information Industries (FKII)
Romania	Association for Information Technology and Communications of Romania (ATIC)
Russia	Russian Information & Computer Technologies Industry Association (APKIT)
Senegal	Senegalese Information Technology Association (SIT'SA)
Singapore	Singapore infocomm Technology Federation (SiTF)
South Africa	Information Industry South Africa (IISA)
Spain	Asociación Española de Empresas de Tecnologías de la Información (SEDISI)
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Information and Communications Technology Association (SLICTA)
Sweden	The Association of the Swedish IT and Telecom Industry (IT-Företagen)
Thailand	The Association of Thai Computer Industry (ATCI)
Turkey	Turkish IT Services Association (TUBISAD)
United Kingdom	The Information Technology, Telecommunications and Electronics Association (Intellect)
United States	Information Technology Association of America (ITAA)
Uruguay	Uruguayan Chamber of Information Technology (CUTI)
Venezuela	CAVEDATOS - Venezuelan Chamber of IT Companies
Vietnam	VINASA - Vietnam Software Association
West Bank & Gaza	Palestinian IT Association (PITA)
Zimbabwe	Computer Suppliers' Association of Zimbabwe (COMSA)