



**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITMENTS BY COUNTRIES SEEKING ACCESSION TO  
THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)**

**September 9, 1997**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is currently negotiating with a number of countries regarding the conditions of their entry into the WTO and their taking a responsible position within the world trading community.

On February 15, 1997, the WTO successfully concluded the landmark GBT agreement to expand trade in basic telecommunications through commitments by members to liberalize market access and national treatment. This agreement is noteworthy by the significant number of countries which took commitments to liberalize their telecommunications regimes by a date certain and to adopt the set of pro-competitive regulatory principles known as the Reference Paper.

While different levels of development of countries were taken into account by the commitments, telecommunications services is critical to the development of a global information infrastructure. Telecommunications liberalization creates the conditions necessary to attract capital, technology and expertise needed to promote economic growth and well-being in both developing and developed countries, and, therefore, provide for the early development of a global information infrastructure and electronic commerce.

Liberalization of basic telecommunications services brings additional benefits to areas such as education and health care, as well as manufacturing, transport and financial service industries which are highly dependent on reliable, accessible and affordable telecommunications.

In light of the importance of a vibrant telecommunications regime, the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), a global alliance of more than twenty five information technology associations dedicated to the promotion of the information technology industry worldwide, presents the following RESOLUTION:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WORLD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES ALLIANCE:**

**CONGRATULATES** the WTO on achieving a comprehensive and far-reaching GBT agreement for the liberalization of basic telecommunications services.

**APPLAUDS** all member countries offering substantial commitments making a successful GBT agreement possible.

**SUPPORTS** the efforts of the WTO to bring additional nations into the world trading system with definitive and responsible commitments.

URGES all countries to consider joining the WTO and to put forth substantial telecommunications commitments to include a date certain for full liberalization and adoption of the Reference Paper in its entirety.

ENCOURAGES its Members to undertake initiatives to promote increased awareness within their own countries of the importance of accession commitments in telecommunications as a means of Moving more rapidly towards a global information infrastructure and a robust electronic commerce trade.