

# Global Public Policy Activities of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance



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# **Facilitating the Use of Information and Communications Technology in the Digital Economy**



- **Industry leadership**
- **Consistent legal and policy environment**
- **Private sector participation and involvement in policymaking**

# Public Policy Value Proposition



- **Advocating global public policies that advance the IT industry's growth and development.**
- **Strengthening WITSA's national IT industry associations' own policy agenda .**
- **Providing a voice for the global IT industry at Multilateral Organizations.**

# Public Policy Value Increases with Market Growth & Technology Convergence



- **Over 522 million users online world-wide.**
- **ICT Spending continues to grow from US\$1.3 trillion in 1993 to over US\$2.4 trillion in 2001 (Digital Planet2002).**
- **Growth of IT increases threat of regulation.**
- **Convergence of technologies blurs lines between modes of commerce, increasing need for proactive industry policy coordination and involvement**

# WITSA Core Policy Objectives



- ***Increasing competition*** through open markets and regulatory reform
- **Ensuring continued growth of the *Internet* and *electronic commerce***
- ***Reducing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers*** to IT goods and services
- **Enhancing *information security*** through industry and government cooperation
- **Supporting IT use for e-government**
- **Protecting *intellectual property***
- **Promoting IT use for economic development**

# Objectives of WITSA's Public Policy Statements



- Provide assessment and analysis of important issues affecting the global IT industry and WITSA members.
- Make available to national and international policymakers the common views of WITSA members.
- Publish information on the WITSA website as a global resource and educational tool.

# Some Reflections on ICT



- **ICT sector is not immune to an economic slowdown.**
- **ICT remains an important driver of economic growth and productivity.**
- **Excessive regulations may limit the benefits of ICT to an economy.**
- **Policies must foster a business environment that encourage the use of ICT.**
- **Policies should ensure that ICT benefits are spread across the economy, in less developed regions, and between countries.**
- **Government should lead by example in the use of ICT.**

# What are the Global IT Issues?



**Do the legal and regulatory frameworks promote e-business?**

**Will there be security to protect transactions, privacy, and intellectual property?**

**Will the infrastructure support the Global Digital Economy?**

**What is needed to facilitate e-government?**

**ICT=economic development**

# 1. Increasing Trade in IT Goods and Services



**WITSA supports implementation and expansion of existing WTO commitments to promote IT goods and services.**

**December 2002 Paper on WTO Negotiations for ICT**

**May 2002 Statement on Negotiating ICT Services**

**OECD's GATS and IT Services Trade Overview at WITSA meeting in Paris**

**WITSA Statements on Tariffs and Taxation**

**Work with the WTO/OECD**

## 2. Enhancing Information Security



**WITSA promotes private-public sector cooperation to suggest policies and practices to provide greater security for information systems.**

**February 2002 Guidelines on Information Security**

**May 2000 Letter to the G-8 on Cybercrime Treaty**

**November 2000 Statement on the COE on Cybercrime Treaty**

**Work with the OECD/APEC/EU**

### 3. Supporting ICT Infrastructure Deployment



WITSA believes that public-private partnerships and cooperation are essential to deploy a global ICT infrastructure.

**WITSA observes a strong link between economic growth and the degree of development of the ICT infrastructure.**

**Facilitate greater Internet use.**

**Encourage policies to promote telecom infrastructure investment and liberalization.**

**Statements of support for ICANN technical management of the Internet.**

## 4. Facilitating ICT for E-Government



**WITSA supports ICT solutions needed to change the way government is organized.**

**WITSA intends to focus attention on the ICT issues relating to the implementation of e-gov.**

**Most governments are at a beginning stage of e-government.**

**Open E-Procurement Systems provide benefits.**

**May 2002 Statement on the Use of ICT to Enable E-Government**

## 5. Seizing the Digital Opportunities



**WITSA is working to prevent a digital divide and to promote digital opportunities for all.**

**WITSA/World Bank cooperation**

**ICT Enterprises Project in Developing Countries**

**November 2002 Statement on “Building an Information Society: A Roadmap for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)”**

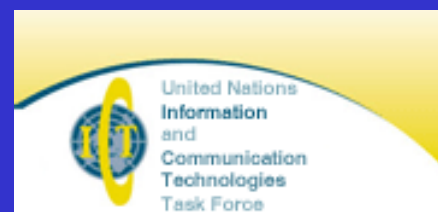
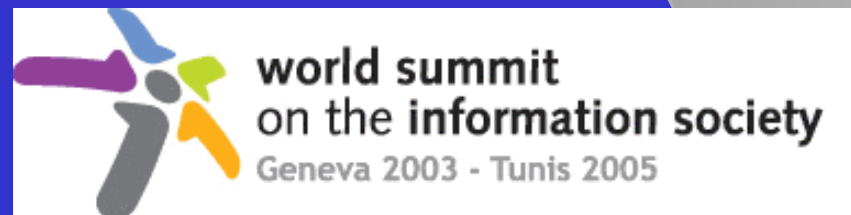
**January 2001 Statement “Seizing Digital Opportunities”**

# WITSA's Participation and Involvement in Global Public Policy Activities



**“...providing a voice for the global IT industry.”**

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