



For Immediate Release
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Global High Tech Industry Alliance Lends Hand of Support to ICANN

Fairfax, VA. - The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) today saluted Esther Dyson for her ground-breaking efforts as the first Chairman of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), and issued a statement of support for the non-profit corporation formed in September 1998 to oversee Internet technical management functions previously managed by the U.S. government. Ms. Dyson is scheduled to leave her post at ICANN with the organization's November 13-16 meetings in Marina del Rey, California.

The statement was delivered to ICANN President and CEO Mike Roberts in advance of the meetings. "In the two years since its creation, ICANN has celebrated many achievements and still has many hurdles to overcome," said Harris N. Miller, President of WITSA. "ICANN is an unprecedented effort by the entire Internet community to create a consensus-based, globally representative non-governmental policymaking entity. We applaud the leadership and vision Ms. Dyson brought to this challenging assignment," Miller added.

"ICANN has undertaken many important tasks in recent months," said David A. Olive, WITSA Public Policy Chairman. Olive added that "its adoption of an arbitration system in late 1999 has proved to be an effective tool to resolve domain name disputes; its online election of five Board Directors by its at-large constituency from around the world has demonstrated its commitment to inclusion and transparency, and its recently adopted program for adopting new generic top-level domain names (gTLDs) has offered a no-nonsense approach to modernize the technical architecture of the Internet without jeopardizing its stability or functionality." The WITSA Statement described the recent programs and decisions undertaken by ICANN as further steps in the right direction for the technical management of the Internet, and appealed to all Internet stakeholders to support the organization.

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a consortium of 41 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 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 www.witsa.org <<http://www.witsa.org>>.

WITSA was an active supporter of the establishment of ICANN and was a co-sponsor of the Barcelona-Monterrey-Washington 1999 proposal that led to the formation of one of its constituent groups, the Domain Names Supporting Organization (DNSO). WITSA is an active member of the DNSO Business Constituency group as are twelve of its national member IT industry associations. WITSA and its member associations helped elect the three business representatives to the current Names Council (NC) -DNSO's executive body.