



For Immediate Release
December 06, 2002

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WITSA Releases New Trade Negotiating Recommendations for Doha Round

Arlington, VA – The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), an alliance of IT associations representing 49 countries, today released a new paper outlining trade negotiation recommendations for the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in the upcoming Doha Development Agenda Negotiations.

WITSA called for all countries to make as a negotiating objective achieving full market access and national treatment in all Computer and Related Services. This means achieving full commitments for countries that currently have no commitments as well as for those that have only partial commitments at this time.

The paper also stresses the importance of the ICT sector in developing economies, where spending is increasing much more rapidly than in developed nations, and takes the position that the Internet is the next generation of Computer and Related Services, and thus commitments in that category from the Uruguay Round should apply to the evolved Internet Services. WITSA also supported commitments to foster the development of global electronic commerce.

“Electronic commerce represents significant opportunities for all countries of the world. For computer service providers to realize the greatest benefit from cross-border liberalization, their customers’ sectors must also be liberalized,” said Allen Miller, WITSA Executive Director and principal author of the paper. “Therefore, obtaining Mode 1 commitments in applicable sectors is crucial.”

The full text of the paper is available online at: <http://www.witsa.org/papers/WITSA-DohaPaper-final.pdf>.

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a consortium of 49 information technology (IT) industry associations from economies around the world. WITSA members represent over 90 percent of the world IT market. 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; and strengthening WITSA’s national industry associations through the sharing of knowledge, experience, and critical information.