



WITSA RESOLUTION
On
The Internet, Internet Governance and Business Interests
At the
2008 World Congress on Information Technology
In Kuala, Lumpur
May 17. 2008

The Internet has become an essential component of economic activity and will assume an even larger role in trade and commerce in coming years, deepening its reach; broadening its capability; embracing mobility and changing to further reflect the diversity of users and geographies that it connects.

The Internet is changing not only in access technology, but in the breadth and spread of its distribution, as well as in the applications that it is able to access and transport. Today, the Internet reaches a billion users. Our immediate challenge will be connecting the next billion users around the world in a stable, secure, and sustainable environment, and then finding ways to connect the next yet unconnected four billion users.

To date, the Internet has grown in a largely unregulated environment, and has shown an ability to thrive in a wide variety of market environments under competitive conditions. This freedom from centralized and heavy regulations has produced impressive results over a relatively short period of time, delivering innovation, productivity and opportunity to a growing numbers of users in all parts of the world. Notably, the Internet has grown fastest in markets where there is competition for the provision of underlying telecommunications facilities, as well as for access and related services. Today, policy makers at both national and global levels are considering a wide number of regulatory approaches to dealing with the challenges of cyber security, access, management of spam and malware, protection of intellectual property and other issues.

WITSA believes that the Internet must continue to thrive in an open and competitive marketplace unencumbered by unnecessary regulations.

WITSA supports private sector initiatives to develop and deliver market based solutions to the challenges faced by the Internet and its users. For example, in addition to technological approaches to improving security of information and networks, increased cooperation with law enforcement and policy makers can address many of the issues of

concern to both governments and end users in cyber security. Innovations in technology delivered by the private sector are bringing affordable options in access, and combined with an enabling environment of legal, regulatory, and investment policies can further improve the availability of Internet access. Concerns of some governments seeking a more centralized regulatory oversight of the Internet and the applications it delivers through international fora can be better addressed through a deepened industry-government dialogue and collaboration on solutions that maintain the largely unregulated commercially driven environment that has supported the Internet's initial success.

WITSA supports **The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)** and its consultative private sector led approach to managing the Internet's technical indicators, such as IP addresses, domain names and related services. WITSA supports the continued role of governments in a supportive and advisory capacity within ICANN. Following the adoption of earlier reforms, WITSA recognized ICANN's positive steps such as the established and effective mechanisms for dispute resolution, the continuing introduction of registrar competition, and above all an improved and transparent review process. WITSA calls for continued evolutionary changes in improved accountability, transparency and broadening bottom up participation, especially by the business sector, to ensure ICANN's success as the means of managing the Internet's technical coordination issues.

WITSA continues its involvement in the **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)** and believes that all stakeholders should identify and focus on a set of priority issues that highlight the fundamental building blocks of an information society, including the Internet. Focusing on these priority issues will create a meaningful framework for demonstrable progress toward the long-term sustainability of a truly global information society.

The value of the IGF is its open and informative nature, allowing a variety of views to be expressed, and the full range of experience and expertise to be shared so that all can continue to learn more about how to use, grow and expand, and protect the key communications and information resource that the Internet has become. As such, the IGF should remain consistent with its mandate for facilitating a dialogue and not engaging in the negotiation of formal documents or outcomes. WITSA supports the continuance of the multi stakeholder nature of the IGF, with all stakeholders interacting on an equal basis.

WITSA also supports the importance of the IGF's focus on engagement with developing countries and seeking ways to encourage participants from those countries to participate in the IGF process and annual forum. Such participation is supported by continuing to ensure timely and frequent publication of useful and informative materials on the IGF website as well as enabling participation in the annual forums.

In order to ensure the Internet's further growth and continued success, WITSA calls upon all stakeholders to work together:

- **To keep the Internet open and accessible to all of society;**
- **To ensure reliable and secure access to information and communications networks and services;**
- **To recognize the multi stakeholder nature of Internet Governance and to strengthen and broaden involvement and leadership of industry in relevant fora ;**
- **To promote the transition from the current Internet addressing system (IPv4) to an addressing system capable of supporting continued Internet expansion and new applications for the foreseeable future (IPv6);**
- **To ensure that global public policy and governing national systems enable the use of ICT products and services throughout societies.**

END