



**WITSA Resolution
in Support of the
Group of 20 Leaders' Statement
Lima APEC Leaders' Statement
And the
Role of ICT as an Enabler for Global Economic Growth**

December 2, 2008

In

Hyderabad, India

As economies around the globe seek the next areas of investment to drive economic growth and to move large parts of the global economy out of recession, WITSA members point out that the information and communication technologies continue to play an enabling role for business, economies, government and society. Now, more than ever, ICT can also be a powerful enabler for economic stability and recovery.

WITSA applauds the Leaders of the Group of Twenty for holding an initial meeting in Washington on November 15, 2008, amid serious challenges to the world economy and financial markets, to enhance our cooperation and work together to restore global growth and achieve needed reforms in the world's financial systems.

The G 20 Summit Leaders achieved five key objectives:

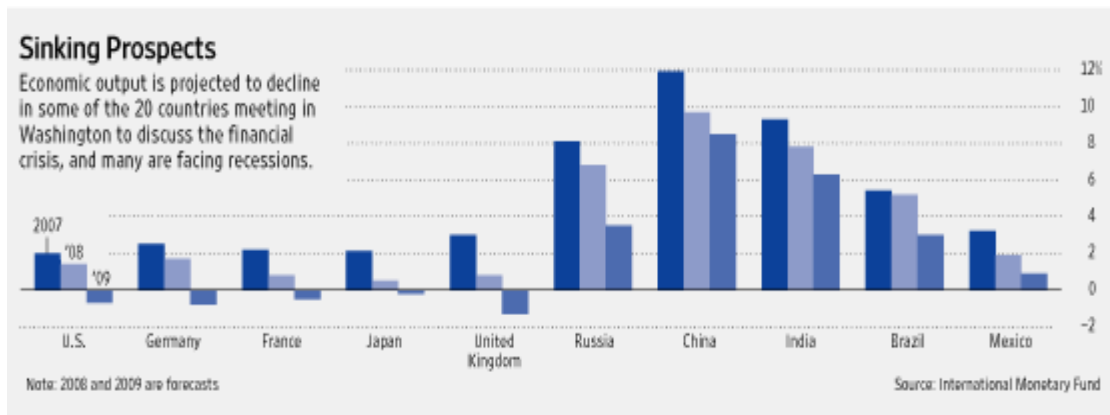
- Reached a common understanding of the root causes of the global crisis;
- Reviewed actions countries have taken and will take to address the immediate crisis and strengthen growth;
- Agreed on common principles for reforming our financial markets;
- Launched an action plan to implement those principles and asked ministers to develop further specific recommendations that will be reviewed by leaders at a subsequent summit: and

We agree with the G 20 Leaders that these reforms will only be successful if grounded in a commitment to free market principles, including the rule of law, respect for private property, open trade and investment, competitive markets, and efficient, effectively

regulated financial systems. These principles are essential to economic growth and prosperity and have lifted millions out of poverty, and have significantly raised the global standard of living.

We highlight the critical importance of the G 20 Leaders rejecting protectionism and not turning inward in times of financial uncertainty. Therefore, WITSA supports the efforts by G 20 Leaders to refrain from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing World Trade Organization (WTO) inconsistent measures to stimulate exports. As in the past, WITSA urges governments to reach agreement this year on modalities that leads to a successful conclusion to the WTO's Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious and balanced outcome

The G 20 Leaders also showed their commitment to addressing other critical challenges such as energy security and climate change, food security, the rule of law, and the fight against terrorism, poverty and disease.



We also acknowledge the Lima APEC Leaders' Statement on the Global Economy on November 22, 2008. The leaders strongly support the broad policy response needed to restore global economic growth and stability through: closer macroeconomic cooperation; avoiding negative spillovers; supporting emerging and developing economies; and comprehensively reforming and strengthening the international financial institutions to reflect the increasing voice and representation of emerging and developing economies and be more responsive to future challenges. The APEC leaders also reiterate their firm belief that free market principles, and open trade and investment regimes, will continue to drive global growth, employment and poverty reduction.

There is a risk that slower world growth could lead to calls for protectionist measures which would only exacerbate the current economic situation. In this regard, we praise the APEC leaders for their strong support to refrain within the next 12 months from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing World Trade Organization (WTO) inconsistent measures in all areas, including those that stimulate exports. We are pleased to see the APEC leader intentions to seek an

ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda negotiations and to direct Ministers to meet in Geneva in December to achieve that objective.

Role of ICT as an Enabler for Global Economic Growth

The crisis in our financial markets reminded us of the realities and challenges of highly complex global systems and global integration.

Today, we see the movement of information, work and capital across developed and developing nations as elements of this global integration. Within the last few years, we recognized the effects of global climate change, and the environmental and geopolitical issues surrounding energy. We have been made aware of global supply chains for food and medicine.

ICT-enabled systems are transforming energy grids, supply chains and water management. They are ensuring the authenticity of pharmaceuticals and the security of currency exchanges. And they are changing everything from organizations' business models to how they enable their employees to collaborate and innovate.

In a globally linked economy, investment and work flow not only to the places in the world that offer cost advantages, skills and expertise. It is flowing to countries, regions and cities that offer intelligent ICT-enabled infrastructure—everything from efficient transportation systems, modern airports and secure trade lanes to reliable energy grids, transparent and trusted markets, e-government, and enhanced quality of life.

The private sector is the primary investor in and innovator of ICT infrastructure, products and services. Effective markets are therefore essential to ensuring a sustainable information society. The priorities set forth above support the creation of markets by fostering a connected, educated and healthy population that can increasingly become engaged in the information society. Such engagement begins through the use of ICT for economic growth and development.

WITSA is committed to spreading the enabling force of ICT that can foster economic growth and social well-being for all. It recognizes that capabilities based on information and communications technologies can serve as vital tools for sustainable economic development, knowledge sharing, societal interaction and freedom of expression, particularly in the world's least developed countries.

