**WITSA Working Group on Internet Governance**
Conference call, April 22, 2015

**Attendees:**
Mr. Tim Conway, Chair
Dr. Jim Poisant, WITSA
Mr. Rahul Sharma, DSCI
Ms. Marion Ebel, DIGITALEUROPE
Mr. Anders Halvorsen, WITSA

**1. Welcome & Introductions**
Mr. Conway welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the working group's responsibilities and referenced the existing WITSA body of work on the Internet governance, and in particular:

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| Mar 02, 2014 | WITSA SUBMISSION TO NETMUNDIAL [LINK; PDF] |
| Oct 23, 2012 | WITSA STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE [PRESS RELEASE] |

Mr. Conway, then asked the participants about their current involvement in Internet governance related matters.

Mr. Sharma informed the group that he was actively involved in ICANN's Cross Community Working Group on ICANN Accountability (CCWG) and had contributed to their draft report (https://community.icann.org/display/acctcrosscomm/Draft+Report). At stake was a need for ICANN to be accountable to an external, independent review. As initial discussions of the IANA Stewardship Transition are taking place, the ICANN community has raised the broader topic of the impact of the transition on ICANN's current accountability mechanisms. From this dialogue, the Enhancing ICANN Accountability process was developed to provide assurance that ICANN remains accountable in the absence of its historical contractual relationship with the U.S. Government. Mr. Sharma suggested WITSA should consider weighing in on the ICANN accountability situation as well.

Dr. Poisant give a brief overview of the NETmundial Initiative (NMI) and the development of the draft Terms of Reference (ToR). Mr. Sharma stated that DSCI and NASSCOM were planning on submitting comments on the draft ToR by the May 1st deadline. Ms. Ebel said DIGITALEUROPE also planned on submitting comments by the stated deadline. Poisant informed the group that the next step would be for the NMI Council to meet in June, most likely in Costa Rica, in order to determine next steps.

Mr. Sharma mentioned that another issue that was of concern for DSCI and NASSCOM is Net Neutrality and referenced NASSCOM's press release of the same day: http://www.nasscom.in/nasscom-proposes-synergistic-model-internet-platforms-applications-and-tsps-while-strongly-advocatin. Mr. Sharma encouraged WITSA to incorporate Net Neutrality into its principles' paper.

Mr. Conway informed the group that ICANN was expected to publish a draft proposal to the U.S. Department of Commerce on the transition of IANA functions the following day, April 23rd. This proposal would be available for public commenting for 30 days. Mr. Conway stated that the draft proposal would be circulated to the Working Group for consideration and review.

Following a review of the draft ICANN proposal on the IANA stewardship transition, it was agreed that WITSA will survey all WITSA members about existing work and concerns related to the following topics:

1. IANA stewardship transition;
2. ICANN Accountability;
3. NETmundial Initiative; and
4. Net Neutrality

Based on the feedback received, the Working Group will determine the appropriate action plan and begin the process of updating WITSA's Internet governance principles.

Another call of the Working Group will take place in approximately one month, to be determined.