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WITSA Supports Multistakeholder Internet Governance Ecosystem

Fairfax, VA, March 29, 2016: The World Information Technology and Services has published a new Statement of Policy on Internet Governance, supporting the strengthening of current collaborative, multistakeholder Internet governance ecosystems, which combined provide a light touch and effective regulatory environment. In the paper, WITSA reiterates its support of governance arrangements that ensure continued growth of the Internet, enabling access for all, anywhere, and which maintain incentives for technological innovation and service quality improvements.

“Sound policy must keep the Internet open and accessible, reliable and secure and governed by a multistakeholder approach with inclusive participation and leadership of industry”, stated WITSA Chairman Santiago Gutierrez.

Mr. Gutierrez welcomed the March 10, 2016 IANA Stewardship Transition Plan and the Recommendations to Enhance ICANN Accountability that have been delivered to the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). “This plan provides for the continued stability and security of key technical functions that are a core part of the smooth operation of the Internet and reinforces ICANN’s accountability to its community”, stated Mr. Gutierrez. “The plan also meets the criteria set by the NTIA in its original announcement. It is consistent with industry’s unequivocal support for multistakeholder governance of the Internet, where the policies and technical processes are developed and implemented by an array of experts in a bottom-up approach, rather than handed down by governments or multilateral organizations”.

“The success of the Internet is rooted in the way it was built and able to grow: an open platform for innovation and sharing of ideas”, said WITSA Secretary General Dr. Jim Poisant. “While continued evolutionary improvements are being made to strengthen participation, accountability and transparency, the progress achieved to date indicates these governance arrangements are both efficient and effective”, continued Dr. Poisant.

The paper can be found on the WITSA web site at the following link: [TBC]

About WITSA:

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is the leading recognized international voice of the global ICT industry, whose members from over 80 countries and economies represent more than 90 percent of the world ICT market. WITSA is dedicated to advocating policies that advance industry growth and development; facilitating international trade and investment in ICT products and services; strengthening WITSA’s national industry associations; and providing members with a broad network of professional contacts.

WITSA members are leaders in a globally interconnected marketplace. Because the challenges facing the ICT industry are undisputedly global in nature, WITSA members work together to achieve a shared vision on important issues of common interest. WITSA makes it possible for its members — ranging from Mongolia and Argentina to Kenya and the United States — to identify common issues and priorities, exchange valuable information, and present a united position on industry issues. For more information on WITSA, please visit www.witsa.org