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## **WITSA Calls for a Principled Approach to Privacy, Security and Data Protection**

**Fairfax, VA:** The World Information Technology and Services today published a Statement of Policy on Privacy, Security and Data Protection, exploring a principled approach to balance fundamental information privacy rights with the equally important policy objectives of national security and data protection while maintaining the economic and social capability of digital information. The new paper has been prepared to provide policy guidance from the ICT industry to all stakeholders on these complex issues and can be used as a tool for the development of policy and to create opportunities for discussions with government officials and all appropriate stakeholders. It represents an extension to WITSA's publication: [Policy Actions to Deliver the Promise of the Digital Age](#)

"As a leading voice of the global ICT industry, WITSA is very conscious of the fact that building and maintaining trust and confidence between all users of the Internet is one of the fundamental building blocks of the Digital Age", stated Mr. R. Chandrasekhar, Chairman of WITSA's Global Public Policy and President of the Indian National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM). "The widespread commercial use of personal data, egregious electronic governmental surveillance programs, efforts to undermine trust in the ICT supply chain, hacking, fraudulent activities, viruses and other threats, often lead to poor and misguided policy choices and protectionism", continued Mr. Chandrasekhar. "This paper addresses these concerns and highlights the importance of transparency and accountability within appropriate legal frameworks, information sharing of risks and vulnerabilities, and collaboration across jurisdictions".

"This paper provides a number of important policy principles that will help ensure even-handedness between the competing policy interests" stated WITSA Secretary General Dr. Jim Poisant. "Indeed, determining the policy balance in any jurisdiction and event scenario requires constructive and cooperative multistakeholder engagement", continued Dr. Poisant. "WITSA recognizes that each stakeholder group – industry, government, consumer, civil society, technical community – has both rights and interests they rightfully seek to protect and the responsibility to ensure these are balanced against conflicting, equally valid public policy interests of others."

**The paper can be found on the WITSA web site at the following link:**

<http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Privacy-Security-Data-Protection-final.pdf>

**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](http://www.witsa.org)