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WITSA welcomes US Government decision to transition Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Authority (ICANN) to global multi-stakeholder community

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), representing the national ICT associations of more than 80 economies, today welcomed the statement from the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of its intent “to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multi-stakeholder community.”

WITSA, as the global voice of the ICT sector, welcomed this important step towards effective multi-stakeholder Internet Governance.

WITSA notes the first step proposed by NTIA is for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by NTIA in the coordination of the Internet’s domain name system (DNS).

WITSA considers the NTIA statement of intent as an important first step, since ICANN has been asked to enable this transition with broad community support, and address four key principles in the process:

- Support and enhance the multi-stakeholder model;
- Maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS;
- Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services; and,
- Maintain the openness of the Internet.

“WITSA underscores these principles which are of critical importance to the global ICT industry, and to ensure the ongoing technical development of the Internet,” said WITSA Chairman Santiago Gutierrez.

WITSA emphasized these not be regarded as ‘political’ principles, but as basic technical design and implementation principles that enable effective and efficient

access for all the world's people, and support the ever-growing capability of Internet technologies.

WITSA stated that it congratulates the U.S. Government for taking this step, and looks forward to working with ICANN in the transition.

About WITSA

Founded in 1978, the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a leading consortium of ICT industry association representing members from nearly 80 countries and economies. WITSA's members represent more than 90 percent of the world ICT market.

As the leading recognized voice of the global ICT Industry, WITSA is taking a proactive role in fulfilling the promise of the Digital Age, wherein everyone on earth derives benefits from Information and communications technologies. For more information on WITSA, please visit www.witsa.org