April 20, 2006

Mr. Markus Kummer
Executive Coordinator
Internet Governance Forum Secretariat
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Kummer:

On behalf of the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), I write to provide the following comments with regard to the upcoming Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to be held in Athens, Greece in October 2006.

ITAA is a trade association consisting of over 330 companies representing a broad cross-section of the information and communications industry, including ISPs, ASPs, computer hardware, software and telecommunications companies. ITAA has been a longstanding and active participant throughout the WSIS process and attended the Tunisian Summit.

The Role of the IGF

ITAA and its member companies look forward to supporting the success of the IGF. We support continued efforts for cooperation among all interested stakeholders including improved cooperation among the various international organizations. The IGF can be a valuable educational and information-sharing venue, designed to address common interests. We also believe that the Internet is a critical tool for the developing world, and we support efforts to explore ways to increase Internet participation and usage in emerging economies. The IGF should be an inclusive, transparent and technology-neutral forum with broad participation from diverse stakeholders from all parts of the world.

Topics for consideration – Athens, 2006

ITAA believes that the first IGF should focus on no more than three topics of discussion, including one topic that can be explored as a possible focus of a future meeting. We find value in the opportunity to explore topics of interest to different stakeholders as an opportunity to build knowledge and share experiences, best

practices and find common cause. This multiculturalism and the role of the Internet in economic development are three possible discussion topics for the first IGF.

Candidates for Multi-stakeholder group

In order to build credibility, ensure longevity, provide leadership and sectoral expertise, ITAA believes that participants in the multi-stakeholder group should have significant experience, authority and seniority in their fields of endeavor. Whether candidates are high-ranking government officials, business or civic leaders, it is essential for participants to have vision, cross-sectoral knowledge, management skills and experience in consensus building. We therefore suggest that candidates with such qualifications will serve the IGF best.

In summary, ITAA believes that the formation of the IGF presents an excellent opportunity for global cooperation on critical issues regarding the future growth and development of the Internet. Our organization looks forward to working with you to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

Bob Laurence
President
ITAA